THE TIMES

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Bombs hit refugee convoy

75 feared dead as 'Nato hits tractors on road'

By Michael Evans and Richard Owen in Gioia del Colle

NATO began an urgent investigation last night after its bombers were accused of hitting a convoy of Albanian refugees, killing 75 people.

Nato admitted that it had attacked the road where the refugees were supposed to be travelling, but insisted it had targeted military vehicles. It promised careful analysis of its cockpit video of its attack. At the same time, the Pentagon said that Yugoslav Air Force planes were flying over Kosovo yesterday and suggested that they may have been responsible for the attack.

If it were confirmed that Nato had killed 75 civilians, it would be the second tragic bombing mistake in two days, after the airstrike on a passenger train near Leskovac that killed ten people.

A Yugoslav official in Pristina claimed at first that there had been two attacks yesterday. He said: "In one, in the village of Zrze, six people were killed and 11 wounded. In another one, in the village of Meja, 64 people were killed and 20 wounded, including three Serb policemen who were escorting the convoy."

Later, Yugoslav state-run media reports claimed a convoy of 100 vehicles, including tractors and cars carrying several thousand ethnic Albanians, was attacked on the Prizren to Dakovica road in Kosovo. They also reported that bodies were strewn along the road.

Nebojsa Vujovic, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said that the Albanians had been returning to their homes when the bombs hit killing 75 people — including six people in a house next to the road — and injuring 25.

A Western agency reporter who was taken to the village of Meja, about three miles from the Albanian border, reported seeing 20 bodies and four injured and he watched an investigating judge counting the bodies.

A Reuters photographer took pictures of people with horrific facial injuries being treated. The road was strewn with mattresses, pillows, blankets and human remains.

A number of Nato aircraft, including RAF Harrier GR7s have been dropping cluster bombs in Kosovo, targeting Yugoslav forces involved in the ethnic cleansing of the Albanian population. Harrier GR7s were involved in bombing operations yesterday but Ministry of Defence sources said they had not been flying in that part of Kosovo.

Earlier this week, a Harrier bombing raid was called off when the pilots could not decide whether a column of vehicles was a military convoy or a line of refugees.

An RAF spokesman in Gioa del Colle in Italy, where the Harriers are based, denied that they had been involved in any attack on a refugee column. Group Captain Glenn Edge said: "We take any such allegation incredibly seriously", but an investigation had shown that RAF planes had not been involved.

The Harriers' targets yesterday included bombing an ammunitions dump in Kosovo, which was attacked twice during the day.

European leaders in Brussels for a summit yesterday expressed regret at the tragedy, but cautioned against taking at face value the Serb claims about what had happened.

Tony Blair said: "Anything they do they use for propaganda purposes. We go to extraordinary lengths to limit any civilian damage or casualties.

Anything that happened in the conflict was the responsibility of President Milosevic, he added. "He is the person who has brought this Nato action upon himself. He is the person who is responsible for causing this conflict by his evil policy of ethnic cleansing. We take every measure to avoid civilian casualties. Unfortunately in a situation such as this they do sometimes happen. But I would not believe or take at face value anything the Serbs say."

The German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder agreed, saying: "This is one of those appalling effects of war for which Milosevic is responsible. I am not minimising this, I do not know what happened. But this is one of those things that arise from military action."

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, said: "I am extremely sorry about the tragedy. This is one more reason why we must intensify all efforts to find a solution to the conflict."

Washington meanwhile gave a cautious welcome to a six-point plan by the German Government to resolve the Kosovo crisis. Washington also welcomed a UN role in creating an international security force for Kosovo. The plan, announced in Bonn by the German Foreign Ministry, suggested a 24-hour suspension of Nato's bombing campaign once President Milosevic had begun to withdraw his forces from Kosovo.

Bonn also suggested that there could be a permanent end to the bombing once the pullout had been completed, and that a UN-authorised military force should be deployed to Kosovo to protect returning refugees.

Asked about the German plan, Joe Lockhart, the White House press secretary, called it constructive. However, he said: "The important thing to note here is that there will be no cessation of this air campaign until (Nato's) demands are met."

James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said: "The main point in the German plan that's relevant here is that this would be done ideally by resolution of the Security Council which would be fine with us."

Britain was more cautious, merely noting the German proposal and emphasising that the Nato peace plan was the one that mattered.



A woman lies injured amid the rubble and tractors after the bombing near the Albanian border yesterday. She was rescued and revived with water







'There was blood all over the ground'

From Sam Kiley in Monice

HUNDREDS of exhausted, tearful and badly traumatised Kosovo refugees streamed into Albania yesterday after being attacked by a bomber on the penultimate leg of their journey. Yugoslav authorities blamed Nato for the atrocity.

The refugees, mostly from around Dakovica, had marched for four days without food or water. They said there were about 20 dead on two tractors and trailers. Many children were among the wounded.

There seemed no doubt, after exhaustive interviews with 20 victims, that the victims had survived Serb atrocities — and possibly a catastrophic Nato blunder.

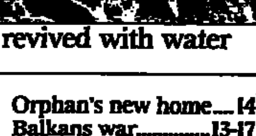
One said she saw a Yugoslav helicopter flying low over her convoy and circling above villages as Nato jets flew higher overhead. About an hour later she found the wreckage of two tractors, bodies, and signs of an airstrike.

"The Serbs said it was Nato. I don't know who did it, but only the Serbs want to kill us," said Hydalte Osmani.

All the other witnesses said they heard jets and then explosions.

Ibrahim Osmani, an elderly man, said: "The Serbs said its was Nato. There was blood all over the ground."

Besa Spahiu said: "Yes, I saw the jets. I heard the bombs go off. It was today at between 1.30 and two. There were many dead."



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Airbag death

Manufacturers were under pressure to warn motorists of the potential dangers of airbags after an inquest into the death of a woman in a head-on collision..................Page 2

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Kathryn Blair in 30,000ft jumbo jet plunge

By Andrew Pierce

TONY BLAIR'S 11-year-old daughter Kathryn was one of the 235 passengers on board when a jumbo jet dropped like a stone for 30 seconds after hitting violent turbulence at 33,000 feet.

Passengers were sent flying across the cabin as the plane approached Changi airport in Singapore. One passenger was smashed through the ceiling of the cabin.

Five British people were among the 25 injured. Seven, including two of the 18 crew, were taken to hospital.

Kathryn Blair, who had flown to Brisbane for a holiday with a young friend under ... accompanied minors, was not injured. Unlike many of the other passengers, the Prime Minister's daughter was wearing her seat belt when the turbulence hit.

British Airways sent Robert Ayling, the chief executive, to meet Kathryn at Heathrow Airport when she flew in yesterday at 9.10am on a different flight from the rest of the passengers. She was met by her grandmother, Gale Booth, m and reunited with her father and mother, Cherie, at Downing Street.

There was no warning of the "clear air turbulence" that struck the plane at 1.24pm British ... bulence is a a freak combination of wind and temperature.

There were several doctors among the 235 passengers who administered emergency first aid. Some passengers arrived back at Heathrow Airport yesterday in wheelchairs, braces, and slings. Others were suffering from shock.

Zamela Loftus, 52, a pub landlady, injured her neck when she was thrown upwards and her head smashed into the cabin ceiling. "When I came down I was sprawled in my husband Vincent's seat. He was lying in the aisle with the hostess on top of him."

Price of an ex-parrot is £20,000 for police

AFTER a surreal echo of a Monty Python sketch, police yesterday agreed to pay £20,000 compensation to a parrot breeder (Alan Hamilton writes). Michael Liddel-Taylor said that a raid had left 15 of his prized birds as ex-parrots.

After the raid, Mr Liddel-Taylor, 53, took one of his deceased birds to his local police station, placed it on the counter in the manner of John Cleese confronting the pet shop owner, and told the officer on duty that he wished to report a murder.

His claim for compensation was settled by agreement before it could be heard at Norwich Crown Court. The raid at Beeston, Norfolk, was on the trail of a stolen macaw. When ... of a macaw, the breeder said, it died of shock. The search was also said to have spread macaw wasting disease.

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Wretched Prescott lurches amid smoking wreckage

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Deputy Prime Minister! One heartbeat from Britain's war leadership! As Mr Blair's second-in-command trudged from the Chamber yesterday, thunder-faced while the Opposition jeered, earnest prayers for the health of our Prime Minister winged skywards.

Commentators ransacked the metaphor of misadventure to convey the scale of his debacle as stand-in for Tony Blair at Prime Minister's Questions. Some called it a humanitarian catastrophe, but we will be sparing. His wheels came off. All of them. Prescott left the road, overturned, demolished a wall, hit several trees and came to rest upturned in the smoking wreckage of his ministerial reputation. We may now never know whether Mr Prescott *did* know what the "withholding tax" was.

It all started with Alan Beith. The bland, blinking Beith deputised for the Liberal Democrat Leader as Blair is in Brussels and, when the Chief's away, Parliament stages a Battle of the Pygmies.

To be roughed up by somebody bigger is bad enough, but by Beith! He asked Prescott if it were true that class sizes had risen. Funk number one. Too proud to admit it but *too clumsy to duck, he replied* that Labour was "on target" with a manifesto pledge. Reminded mildly that the answer was Yes, he dug deeper: Beith had "asked if we were on target", he insisted.

"No he didn't," MPs shouted. "Well that's the answer he's going to get," said Prescott.

He lurched moments later into a tangle with Slavic pronunciation, denouncing someone he called "General Mothcrditch". *Bouncing off Serbo-Croat* he hit international law, referring to "war crimes and tribunial indicts".

The Deputy Prime Minister was breaking up, cool gone, spinning out of control. Clare Short tried to comfort him with whispers. He stumbled over the IRA, reminding MPs that, hanging over us, was "the sceptre of violence".

Spotting a wounded bull-elephant, Sir Michael Spicer (C, Worcestershire W) took aim. Could Prescott guarantee there would be no withholding tax?

Withholding tax? Panic in his eyes. Colleagues freeze, *helpless to rescue. He rises.* Must answer. Something with "tax" in it. He bellows about a tax he does know, the Tory poll tax. He tries a defence of the local government financial settlement.

Stunned silence all around. Have we misunderstood? Then MPs begin to laugh, howl, hoot. He ploughs wretchedly on, Margaret Beckett's face locks in embarrassed grin. "More!" they shout, as he collapses into his seat. That could have been the end of it but a fuse had now blown in the Prescott brain. To a question about the National Forest, Prescott's an*swer seemed* to be about the railways; everyone barracked; Prescott explained to Madam Speaker that he had thought he was answering a different question. Miss Boothroyd took pity and, meaning to help, told MPs to check Order Papers and see what question they were on. Confused by the laughter, Prescott took this as a reprimand — then apologised to the Chair for his first apology. New questioners arose. He kept losing his place in his notes. Pauses lengthened to eternities.

Everyone but the Deputy Prime Minister was in the Commons Chamber. But Mr Prescott was in a sort of cosmic vortex, his briefing notes blowing about: arguments, Slav names and impossible taxes hurtling at him out of a black void, mocking laughter and Speaker's reprimands echoing from the dark.

We have all been there, my *friends. Hilarity turned to em*barrassment and one found it hard to look. This, without doubt, was John Prescott's longest half-hour.

Car firms face pressure after airbag verdict

By Russell Jenkins

CAR manufacturers were under pressure last night to warn motorists of the potential dangers of airbags after an inquest into the death of a woman from a rare skull fracture in a head-on collision.

Jennifer Reichardt, 47, was thrown backwards in the driving seat by the force of an expanding airbag, and is believed to be the first motorist in Britain whose death has been blamed on the safety feature, although there have been 16 deaths recorded in the United States since they were introduced in the early 1980s.

A jury at the inquest in St Helens, Merseyside, brought in a verdict of accidental death, but Christopher Sumner, the coroner, said that the case was of such importance that he would be sending a transcript to John Prescott, the Transport Secretary.

After the hearing, Miss Reichardt's family criticised carmakers and ministers for failing to publicise dangers.

Her partner, Kenneth Unsworth, 56, said: "We as a family would strongly criticise the British motor industry, the Department of Transport and, on this particular occasion, the Rover motor group for, in our view, glossing over the dangers and the fact that every motorist with an airbag is driving around with a bomb or missile in their car and wearing seatbelts *will not, of itself,* prevent injury or death.

"We do feel the motor industry has a lot to answer for and that, following this tragedy, they should take more positive steps to bring the dangers to the buyer's attention, particularly when they advertise airbags as a safety feature."

Miss Reichardt, of Rainhill, St Helens, was driving her N-registered Rover 414 at only 19mph home from work in the early evening in January last year when she collided with a 13-year-old Opel Ascona on a bend. The driver of the other car, which did not have an airbag, was able to walk away from the wreckage.

Miss Reichardt, however, suffered an extremely rare "ring" skull fracture, which an experienced accident and emergency doctor at Whiston Hospital immediately concluded was the result of the airbag throwing her head back on to the headrest. Ernest Gradwell, a pathologist, said that Miss Reichardt's fatal injury had been caused by a blow of similar force to someone jumping from the top of a building.

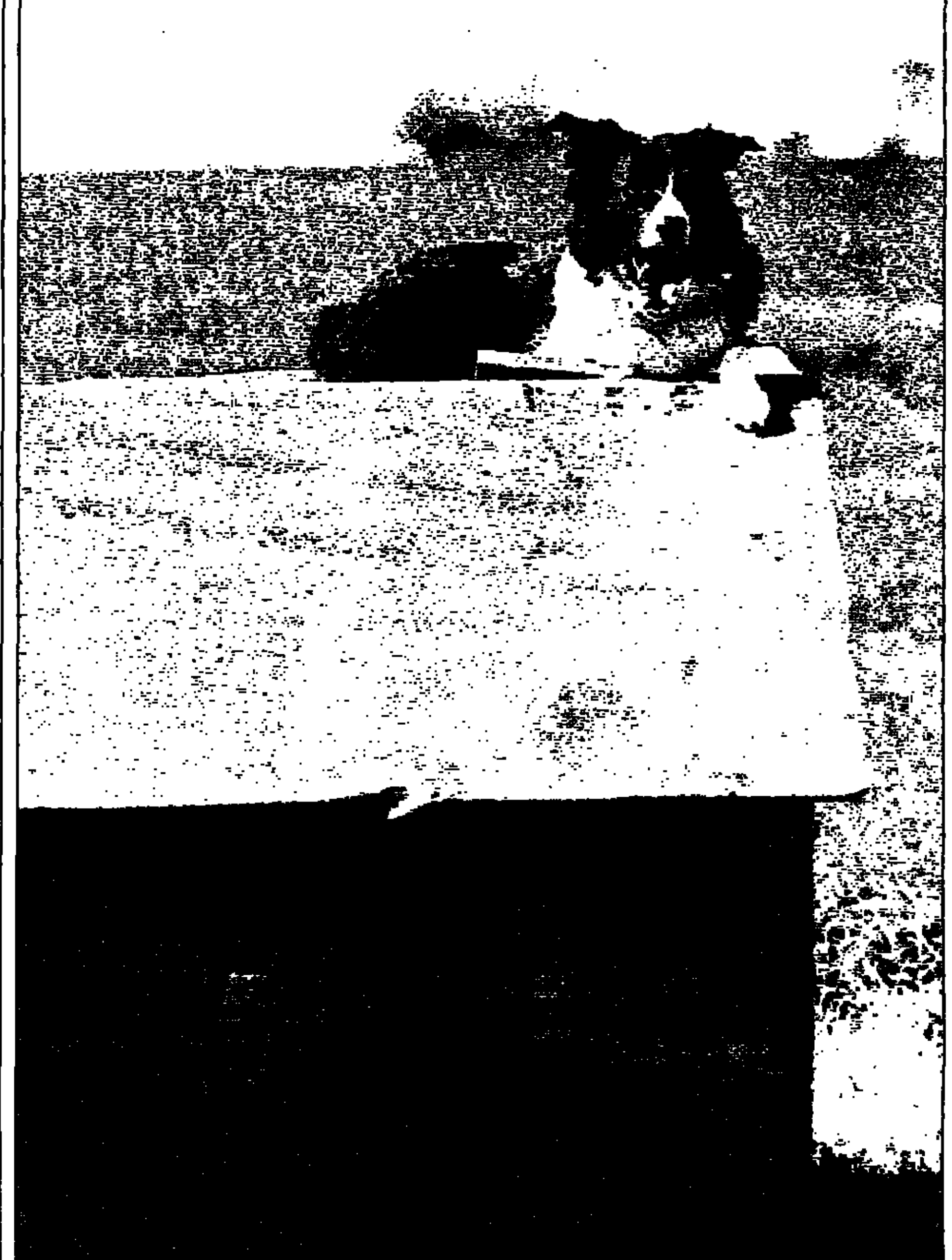
Julian Hill, a research fel*low at the Birmingham Acci*dent Research Centre at Birmingham University, told the inquest that that Miss Reichardt was killed by the force of the expanding airbag as she was thrust forward by the accident. But he suggested that she appeared to be sitting "uncomfortably close" to the steering wheel.

A spokesman for the Rover group said: "There is nothing we can do until we have seen the full inquest report. We are waiting for a transcript of the evidence, which is quite routine in such matters."

The Society of Motor Manufacturers said last night that car occupants should position their seats at the furthest reasonable distance from the airbag.

Tests are currently being carried out in Britain on "smart" airbags, which can automatically adjust to the position of each occupant.

GRANT NORMAN



After the storm: Brenna the border collie was left a little under the weather yesterday

Freak tornado gives dog a lift

By Helen Rumbelow

IT HAS been raining dogs in Suffolk, where a mini-tornado lifted a border collie off its feet and dropped it from the sky.

The freak twister in Pentlow was part of the bitterly cold weather that will plague the country until the weekend. There is also a risk of flooding as strong freezing winds and up to four inches of snow coincide with the spring high tide, particularly on the East Coast.

During yesterday's foul weather, Brenna, a border collie, took shelter in its kennel, but was lifted high in the air and smashed down again 15ft across a farmyard. Its owner, Pamela Bowers, 46, watched aghast from the kitchen window. "I heard this noise like a tractor coming down the farm drive," she said. "There was a huge gust of wind and chairs and things started flying past the window." She saw Brenna's kennel sailing by. "It somersaulted twice. I thought, 'Oh my God, the dog's in there'." Brenna was a little shaken, but unhurt.

The Meteorological Office said that thunderstorms had given rise to this rare British tornado. Snowstorms have moved south, with the Met Office issuing warnings of more heavy snow in north Somerset, Bristol, south Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

This extreme version of April showers may continue beyond the weekend. Those who may benefit are the 30,000 runners in the London Marathon on Sunday, when it is forecast to be 11C.

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'Bulldog' Moore hands off Newark approach

By Roland Watson
Political Correspondent

BRIAN MOORE, the gap-toothed *"bulldog" of English* rugby for much of the 1980s and 1990s, has been courted by Labour to become a candidate in next month's Newark by-election.

He was even smuggled into the Treasury for an hour-long chat with Gordon Brown on Monday evening in an attempt to persuade him to stand. But Mr Moore, a solicitor, has decided not to take up the challenge. It is understood he feels that Newark is too risky and would prefer to hold out for a safer seat at a general election.

The decision has left Labour with a headache as to who to field in the contest, which is now three weeks away. The party's National Executive By-Election Committee met in secret on Tuesday evening and interviewed six potential candidates. While Nicholas Dakin, a teacher and leader of North Lincolnshire council, emerged as a possible frontrunner, senior Labour officials are continuing their search.

Some leading figures at party headquarters are pinning their hopes on a Court of Appeal ruling today that could save them from having to fight the contest at all. The court is expected to rule on the appeal by Fiona Jones, who was forced out of the Newark seat after being convicted of election fraud. If the court finds in Mrs Jones's favour, it may also direct that, in the interests of natural justice, she be allowed to retain her seat without a by-election.

Today is the final day that the writ for the by-election can be moved in the Commons in time for a May 6 contest. Labour's preferred date — the day of the local council elections and of those for the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly.



Moore: wants to wait for a safer Labour seat

NEWS IN BRIEF

A merry new year for pubs

Millennium revellers will be able to *drink around the* clock, the Government has announced. The Home Office said the results of a recent consultation exercise seeking views on opening hours for New Year's Eve had supported the Government's preference for an all-night relaxation of licensing hours.

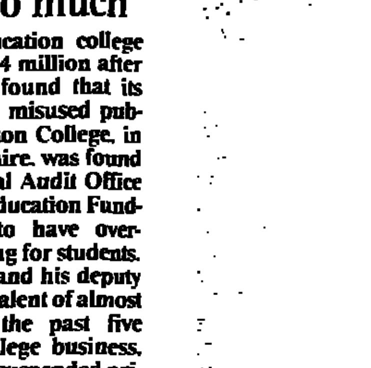
The plans will allow pubs and clubs to open from 11am and throughout the night on New Year's Eve, with pubs eventually returning to normal opening hours at 11pm closing on New Year's Day.

The arrangements would come into effect in time for the Millennium celebrations and would apply to subsequent New Year's Eves.

The Government added that special powers would be put in place to limit the opening hours of premises causing nuisance.

Judiciary 'needs greater scrutiny'

Judges should appear before Parliament to be questioned about their views on a range of political and legal matters before being appointed to top judicial posts, Liam Fox, Tory spokesman on constitutional affairs, said in a lecture to the Politeia think-tank. He said that greater scrutiny of the appointments system was needed because judges had increasingly usurped the role of elected politicians as the power of Parliament had diminished.



College claimed £6.4m too much

A further education college must repay £6.4 million after investigations found that its managers had misused public funds. Halton College, in Widnes, Cheshire, was found by the National Audit Office and Further Education Funding Council to have overclaimed funding for students. The principal and his deputy spent the equivalent of almost one year in the past five abroad, on college business, and have been suspended prior to a disciplinary hearing.

Doctor accused over baby death

A Sudanese obstetrician who fled Britain in August 1997, days after the death from head injuries of Amos Tutt, who was delivered by forceps, is facing a manslaughter charge over the case, the General Medical Council said. The Crown Prosecution Service is monitoring the movements in Saudi Arabia of Helmi Nour, then at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in West London, in case he visits a country with which Britain has an extradition treaty.

Lifting lid on Roman coffin

The mysteries of a Roman coffin found last month within a stone sarcophagus in the City of London began to be unravelled last night. Archaeologists from the Museum of London, which unearthed it in Spitalfields, began the process of opening the coffin. For health and safety reasons they had to wait until the last visitor had left the museum before they could lever up the ornate lid that covered the coffin for some 1,800 years.

Leading article, page 23

Deal 'is up to Ulster parties'

Downing Street sees no point in a Blair visit, reports Martin Fletcher

THE sense of pessimism afflicting Northern Ireland's peace process was fuelled last night when Downing Street all but ruled out a fresh visit to Belfast by the Prime Minister this week.

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, had been expected to fly to the Province today were there a genuine prospect of breaking the deadlock over IRA disarmament, but a Downing Street spokesman said that Mr Blair's intervention was now "pretty unlikely".

Betraying a degree of exasperation, he said Mr Blair had "got a lot on his plate and we are at the stage where it's up to the parties to make some progress ... It is for the parties to come up with suggestions. If they don't like the suggestions on the table they can come up with their own."

Mr Blair, Mr Ahern and Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, are expected to meet in London today to try to chart a way forward.

At Stormont yesterday the parties held a second successive day of talks, but there was no sign of any progress or of their presenting any new ideas for resolving the impasse caused by the IRA's refusal to start decommissioning its weapons and the refusal of David Trimble, the First Minister, to admit Sinn Fein to an executive until it does.

On a day of growing rancour the Women's Coalition joined Sinn Fein and the Progressive Unionist Party in criticising the Hillsborough Declaration — the plan issued by the two Prime Ministers before Easter to break the impasse by removing any connotations of surrender from the act of decommissioning.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, who insists there are no preconditions on its admission to the executive, challenged the governments to say whether they had abandoned last year's Good Friday accord in favour of the declaration. Dr Mowlam insisted the declaration was merely one way of implementing the accord. Mr Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party accused Sinn Fein of trying to bully the governments into abandoning the principle of decommissioning.

"We are facing a difficult time; no one is trying to hide that," Dr Mowlam conceded. She emphasised that all the parties remained committed to the peace process. She was sure that "we will all keep talking however long that takes".

The search for a compromise will become increasingly hard as the Euro-elections approach and the marching season intensifies. None of the parties wants to "park" the process for the summer but without a breakthrough soon that may be the least bad option.

Parties opposed to the accord seized on Mr Blair's failure to return. "The Prime Minister, having received a bloody nose from the two parties fronting terrorists, Sinn Fein and the PUP, has obviously no stomach for a rematch," said Cedric Wilson, of the Northern Ireland Unionist Party.

هكذا من الأصل



The invisible menace at 30,000 feet

Clear air turbulence is biggest cause of air injuries, write Nigel Hawkes and Arthur Leathley

CLEAR air turbulence of the type that made a British Airways Boeing 747 plunge 1,000 feet on a flight to Singapore yesterday can turn a smooth flight into a roller-coaster ride in seconds.

An aircraft can fall hundreds of feet so quickly that anything not held down, including passengers and crew, becomes a missile. Food, drinks, luggage and bodies crash into the cabin ceiling before tumbling down again.

Turbulence caused by cloud or heavy weather can usually be avoided. But there is less chance of dodging turbulence that emerges from a clear sky. It causes more injuries than any other type of in-flight accident, with flight crew bearing the brunt.

The experience is terrifying, as passengers fear that the aircraft will break up. Modern aircraft are built to survive such incidents and almost invariably do. But it is hard to believe that as the cabin becomes a mêlée of objects flying around.



A passenger from flight BA016, Natalie Caswell

Turbulence has a number of possible causes. One of the commonest occurs along the edges of the jet stream, a narrow band of high-altitude wind which blows west to east around the world at a height of 30,000ft or more. "Where you get a rapid change of wind speed, either at the edges of the jet stream, or at different heights within it, there is a danger of turbulence," said Nick Cussen, a Met Office aviation forecaster.

He compares the situation to a mountain stream which is flowing fast but smoothly in the centre and more slowly, but equally smoothly, along the edges. In between these two smooth flows there are swirls and eddies, the equivalent of clear air turbulence.

The area of turbulence is localised and can come and go. Sometimes, when three aircraft fly through the same piece of sky, "the first experiences turbulence and so does the last, but the one in the middle has no trouble".

The area of turbulence in such cases is a lozenge-shaped region up to 1,000 miles long and perhaps 100 miles wide, lying along the length of the jet stream. Forecasters look for abrupt changes in wind speed — by more than 60 knots in a distance of six nautical miles — when seeking to forecast clear air turbulence. Winds are not the only cause, Mr Cussen said. Long ridges and troughs of high and low pressure in the upper atmosphere can become destabilised, causing turbulent spots, or downdraughts and updraughts surrounding thunderclouds can toss aircraft around.

An incident on a United Airlines flight between Tokyo and Honolulu in December 1997, which killed one person and injured 110, was caused by turbulence close to a thunderstorm. The terrain below can also create turbulence, as in the BOAC Boeing 707 crash that killed 124 people in the lee of Mount Fuji in 1966.

Clear air turbulence is relatively uncommon over Europe but in America airlines have introduced a "belt-up" policy throughout flights to reduce injuries. "We don't think it's a burden to keep the seat belt fastened if you are seated," said United Airlines when the policy was introduced last year.

British airlines reported 11 incidents last year in which clear air turbulence caused some form of injury, however minor. The most common consequence was members of cabin crew suffering scratches when an object fell out of a galley or overhead locker.

A jet hitting clear air turbulence — which is undetectable by conventional radar — is in effect pitched into a vortex, turning violently to left and right while suddenly dropping or rising by 1,500ft and beyond.

Pilots do not receive simulator training for the danger and learn from experience how to handle the temporarily unstable aircraft. "The most immediate remedy is to gain or lose altitude quickly, and generally this is quite possible as long as the aircraft is not out of control — which is very rare," said a spokesman for the British Airline Pilots Association.

Although most passengers believe that pilots have forewarning of turbulence, it is because of incidents such as that affecting BA016 that airlines increasingly advise passengers to wear seat belts throughout the journey. The destructive power of clear air turbulence, which can also strike in mountainous areas and close to thunderstorms, was shown in America in 1992 when a DC-8 cargo aircraft had an engine and a 19ft section of a wing ripped off.

Despite the damage, the aircraft, flying over the Rocky Mountains, managed to land safely. Two years ago, a United Airlines jumbo flying between Honolulu and Tokyo was hit so badly that a 32-year-old Japanese woman died as she was catapulted to the ceiling during a sudden 1,000 feet descent.

Although its is invisible to the radar equipment that allows aircraft to avoid storms, scientists in America are perfecting an alternative laser technology which will be able to detect changes in air density. The system, known as Light Detection and Ranging, or Lidar, emits energy pulses before using feedback to compare it with the circumstances in which clear air turbulence is known to occur.

It is hoped that Lidar could provide pilots with a 60-second warning to tell passengers and crew to put on their seatbelts.

HOW CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE CAUSED HAVOC ON FLIGHT BA016

1 British Airways Boeing 747 flight BA016 a,t an altitude of 33,000ft with 235 passengers and 18 crew hit clear air turbulence and dropped about 1,000ft

2 Passengers and crew not secured are hurled around the cabin, some fracturing limbs and 22 suffering sprains, heavy bruising and shock

3 The 747 continues its flight to Singapore where it landed safely 50 minutes later

2.14 pm, April 14: Flight arrives at Singapore

1.24 pm, April 14: Aircraft hits turbulence 200 miles from Singapore at 33,000ft

Slow air moves at 180mph

Jet-stream moves at 230mph

CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE

Turbulence is caused when a fast moving jet stream meets a stream of slower moving air. The turbulence where the streams meet can cause vortices violent enough to throw a plane up or down

Kathryn rescued from spill on holiday

By Sue Lappeman and Andrew Pierce

IT WAS an adventurous holiday for Kathryn Blair. Only days before the drama in the air, she was in adrift in water after being thrown from a jetski in a tropical storm.

Kathryn, 11, and family friends were on a three-seater jetski which overturned on the Gold Coast Canal on Saturday afternoon. The English girl and an Australian couple had to be rescued by Nat Prendergast, 31, who saw them struggling to get back on to their jetski in front of his canal-front home at Sorrento at 4.30pm.

"They got the jetski up again but they couldn't get it to start," said Mr Prendergast. "The weather was terrible, it was pouring with rain. I called out to them that they could tie up at my jetty until they could get it going but they called out that the motor was just flooded and it would be OK in about 10 minutes. I looked out half an hour later and they were still on the jetski in the rain and drifting."

All were wearing wetsuits. Mr Prendergast, a sales manager, picked them up in his speedboat. "They were very grateful," he said. "They jumped in my boat and I towed their jetski back to where they were staying." He was directed to a large riverside house a couple of miles away in Broadbeach Waters where an anxious group of adults was waiting for them. "They all had cameras out and were taking photos of their mishap," he said.

"As the guy was getting off my boat, he said, 'When you get home, you can tell your wife you just rescued the British Prime Minister's daughter'. The little girl had been dead quiet through the whole thing - she didn't say a word.

Blair with Kathryn: she was rescued after fall from jetski

She had a wet suit on but she was very cold. When they got off they were all very thankful and she thanked me as well. I told them all to have a nice day and then I went home." It is understood that Kathryn had been visiting the family of an Australian Labour Party activist who got to know Tony Blair at Oxford University. Mr Blair lived in Adelaide between 1955 and 1958 when his father, Leo, was a law lecturer at the city's university.

The Prime Minister has other close connections with Australia. His spiritual mentor, the Rev Peter Thomson, whom he also met at Oxford, has a remote ranch 30 miles from Victoria. Mr Thomson, who is widely credited with instilling in Mr Blair many of his political beliefs, is now working in London's East End. His wife, Helen, speaking from their ranch on a 160-acre estate at Merrijig, said: "We did not know Kathryn was in Australia. The main thing is she is safe. She had a more adventurous holiday than she bargained for."

Murdered girl was 'excellent' Millfield pupil

By Christine Middap

A GIRL of 17, murdered after a birthday celebration with friends on Monday night, was a student at Millfield school, police said yesterday.

The naked body of Ashleigh Robinson was found early on Tuesday in a driveway off a residential road in Guildford. She had been strangled and had possibly been sexually assaulted.

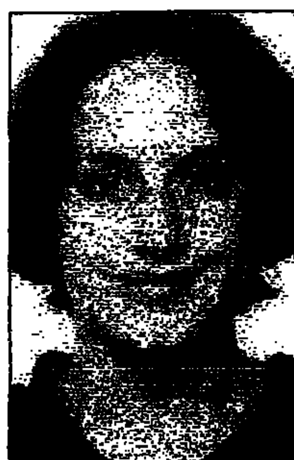
Detective Superintendent John Beavis, of Guildford police, said that Miss Robinson had been out with a group of nearly 50 friends celebrating three birthdays. She had become separated from them and had been seen on closed-circuit television leaving Cinderella's nightclub in central Guildford with a man at about 11.40pm.

Mr Beavis said Miss Robinson was an intelligent young woman who had studied hard in the upper sixth at Millfield, the £15,000-a-year co-educational school at Street, Somerset. She had been studying A levels in physics, chemistry and mathematics and had had offers from four universities, where she was planning to study psychology and philosophy.

"She has been described as a bouncy, full-of-fun girl with a wicked sense of humour," Mr Beavis said. "She had lots of friends and she got along with everybody."

Miss Robinson's family, who live in Axbridge, Somerset, were notified yesterday morning and Mr Robinson later identified his daughter's body. She had been staying with friends.

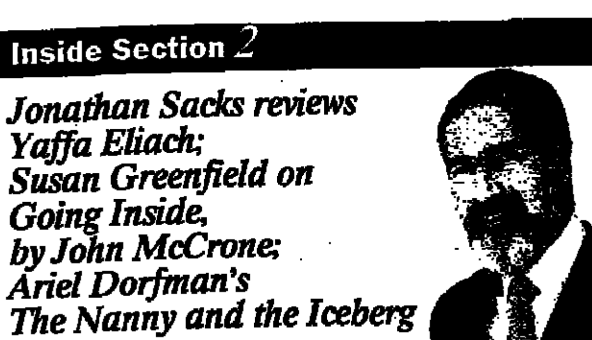
Mr Beavis said: "Her family is devastated. One of the most difficult jobs I've had to do in the police service was to speak to Mr Robinson."



Ashleigh: was pictured leaving a nightclub

Peter Johnson, headmaster at Millfield, said: "Ashleigh was a popular day-girl in her final year, who was an excellent student. She was a fine fencer, reaching national standard at the foil. She was a highly respected all-round student." Her brother and sister had been pupils at the school.

Police have arrested a single, unemployed man, aged 29, on suspicion of murder.



Retired major beaten to death by neighbour

By Helen Johnstone

A RETIRED army major died after being struck with a walking stick when a ten-year dispute with his neighbour came to a head, a court was told yesterday.

After repeatedly hitting Major Anthony Jones, 82, on the head, Eric Nicholls, 63, is alleged to have said in a 999 call: "I want to report I have just given someone a good hitting with my walking stick and I don't think they are in a very good condition." Mr Nicholls, a former car salesman, later told police he felt no remorse, the court was told.

A post-mortem examination showed that Major Jones, a retired rocket scientist who led a team behind enemy lines to find sites of V2 bombs during the Second World War, had been struck 14 times. He suffered fractures to his skull, arms and pelvis, and a brain haemorrhage, in the attack last August.

Julian Baughan, QC, for the prosecution, told Kingston Crown Court that the two men had gone into business in 1986. They extracted gravel from Mr Nicholls's land and created a gravel pit on land belonging to both men. However, by 1990 solicitors were brought in over disputed boundaries.



Nicholls: reported attack with walking stick

In police interviews, Mr Nicholls admitted that he had battered his neighbour at a disused graveyard in Sulhamstead, near Reading, after learning that Major Jones had allowed men on to his land to shoot with air rifles.

Mr Nicholls, who lived 50 yards from the dead man in Sulhamstead, told police that, as Major Jones went down, he brought the stick down as hard as he could on the back of his neck.

"It was a solid blow like a ball hitting a cricket bat in the right place. I feel a sense of relief, yes, that he is dead." Major Jones's body, with his black labrador, Gunty, sitting at his feet, was found by a friend.

Mr Nicholls admits responsibility for the killing but denies murder. The trial continues.



Oxford takes a punt on pedalos

Alex O'Connell test-drives a boat that has offended Cherwell purists

THE graceful art of punting down the Cherwell is under threat from a new breed of pedalo, identical in shape to a punt, but lacking the pole. The candy-striped, pedal-powered craft, introduced last month at Magdalen Bridge Boathouse in Oxford, have outraged purists from Magdalen College.

"I think it's a monstrous carbuncle and the first step in the Disneyfication of Oxford," Ben Johnson, president of the Junior Common Room, said. "The only mitigating factor is that the most common punting customers are Italians, who are not natural sailors. They may find the pedals easier than the pole."

Stewart Wood, Junior Dean, fellow of the college and speechwriter for Tony Blair, was equally offended. "It looks like the sort of punt they'd use in a Cornetto ad," he said yesterday. "It's horrendous. Tourists will not know whether they are in Venice or Oxford."

Howard & Son, which runs the boathouse, commissioned the craft from Damian Brown, who has a boat-building business in Witney. The fibreglass pedalos, which have detachable canopies, cost £2,500 each, compared with £3,500 for a traditional wooden punt. They cost £10 an hour to hire, compared with £9 for a punt. They are proving popular with Spanish, Italian and German tourists, and Andrew Howard, a partner in the business with his father, Derrick, expects to have up to eight in operation by midsummer.



The old: Edwardian punters by Magdalen Bridge

He believes that, rather than pushing the traditional punts off the water, the pedalos will provide an alternative for users short on co-ordination and manual dexterity.

"The reaction has been good so far," said Mr Howard, whose family has run the company for nearly 100 years. "The pedalos are bright, attractive and good fun. When we look at the old punts, they are a brown colour, which is a bit dull. These are more cheerful. They worked very well over Easter with tourists. They can relate to pedalos."

The pedalo's fibreglass bottom feels shakier than a punt's solid wood floor. For the feet to reach the pedals, the user must slouch into a position that leaves the head halfway down the seat back — a posture more traditionally adopted by the riders of "chopper" motorcycles. While he or she is spared the embarrassment of dropping the pole or soaking the passenger, the pedaller is left with all the dignity and poise of a step-aerobics instructor.

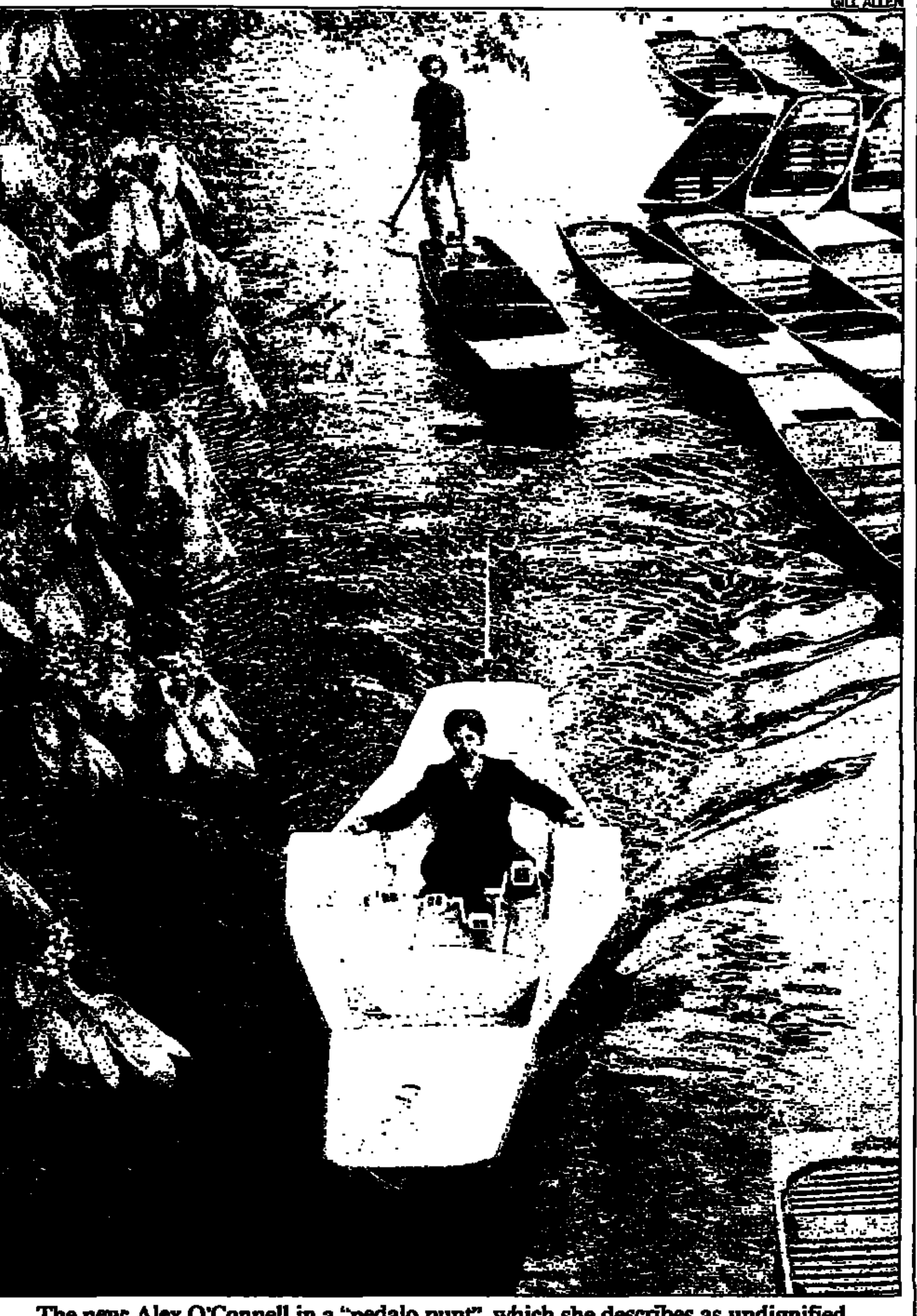
The pedalo, which has a rudder, is easier to manoeuvre to the left or right, but is difficult to steer precisely. Rather than gliding swan-like down the river, it shuffles along like an overenthusiastic doggie paddler.

Luke Bevans, 21, a third-year history student at Magdalen, was concerned that the pedalo would be a less romantic vehicle for evenings on the river. "It will not woo the girls in the same way, and anything that is not as good at impressing the ladies has to be a bad thing."

Lucy Shackleton, a third-year Classics student at Girton College, Cambridge, and a punt guide on the Cam, said the pedalo punts were unlikely to catch on there. "I can't see Cambridge resorting to that method, but here the punters are more refined than at Oxford."

Mr Johnson retorted: "That's rubbish, they are the sort of tacky thing that would become extremely popular at Cambridge."

Kevin Sproule, 30, who works for Howard & Son, said: "The tourists will love them. So it doesn't really matter what the students think."



GILL ALLEN

The new: Alex O'Connell in a "pedalo punt", which she describes as undignified

Mardi Gra bomber is jailed for 21 years

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

EDGAR PEARCE, the Mardi Gra bomber, was jailed for 21 years at the Old Bailey yesterday for a blackmail and bombing campaign "motivated by greed and an insatiable appetite for notoriety".

Sentencing Pearce, 61, from Chiswick, West London, for a series of attacks over 3½ years against Barclays Bank and Sainsbury, Michael Hyam, the Recorder of London, told him that his devices had injured people and could have killed.

He told Pearce, a former advertising executive and restaurant owner, that he had shown "a cynical disregard for the physical and mental safety of the public".

The judge said that a great deal of public money had been spent to catch him and that Barclays had been forced to spend an extra £140,000 in security measures.

Last week Pearce admitted 20 offences including blackmail, causing explosions, causing actual bodily harm, unlawful wounding and firearms offences. Yesterday the judge rejected a plea for him to be sent to Broadmoor and told him that his guilty plea was inevitable because of the evidence against him.

He told Pearce that he must serve a long sentence to protect the public and deter others.

Thomas Stuttaford, page 20

Survival group leader 'killed by best friends'

By Richard Duce

THE leader of a college survivalist group called The Brotherhood was stabbed to death by his two closest friends, who burnt and dismembered his body before it was buried in a shallow grave, a court was told yesterday.

Russell Crookes, 17, was murdered as he walked in woods he styled "training grounds" near Hadlow College in Kent, set in 640 acres outside Tonbridge, where he and his alleged killers studied horticulture. The reason his friends turned on him may have been because the teenager, who weighed 14 stone, had become a bully and called them names.



Russell Crookes: leader of teenage group

Maidstone Crown Court was told yesterday that Graham Wallis, 18, and Neil Sayers, 19, stabbed him repeatedly in the chest with two knives as they walked together in the woods in May last year. His body was then doused in barbecue lighter fluid and his right leg cut off. The two students then returned to college to stock up on orange juice and biscuits before returning to the murder scene.

The remains of Mr Crookes, of Walderslade, near Chatham, Kent, were doused with orange juice before the body was moved 200 yards and buried amid stinging nettles.

Wallis, from Croydon, South London, has admitted murder and is the main prosecution witness against Mr Sayers, who denies the charge.

Wallis is expected to tell today how his victim, who liked books about war and survival, was killed in the early hours of May 14. Yesterday Wallis described how Mr Crookes had begun to get on his nerves by calling him "Lord Ponsonby" and Mr Sayers "Pansy" because he thought the latter might be gay. He also took to calling them Wallace and Gromit.

Wallis was on half-term holiday in Shrewsbury with his parents when he was arrested. Mr Sayers, of Gillingham, Kent, said he had no part in the killing and that Mr Crookes had been alive when he last saw him.

The case continues today.

Recruit more minorities, police are told

Home Secretary orders an extra 8,000 black and Asian officers in ten years, writes Stewart Tendler

POLICE must be made to represent today's multicultural society by recruiting 8,000 officers from ethnic minorities within ten years, chief constables were told by the Home Secretary yesterday.

Jack Straw also ordered forces to stanch the flow of black and Asian officers quitting early and to increase their representation at senior levels.

Mr Straw told chief constables at a Home Office conference on ethnic recruiting that he wanted every force to reflect its local ethnic minorities within ten years. He said said that he was not talking about quotas and telling forces to employ officers because of the colour of their skin, but rather was setting achievable targets to make the police representative.

If forces could not meet their targets, Mr Straw said that they would have to explain why they had failed. They would also have to show that they were setting realistic targets and suggest how long it would take them to reach the target.

About 7 per cent of the population in England and Wales is black or Asian, but these minorities form only 2 per cent of police officers. Mr Straw said that, without a kick start, he could see little chance of police reaching a proper ethnic balance in the next 25 years.

He told the conference that it was time for the police to become "a service that is part of the community, not apart from it". Every force should have at least 1 per cent of its officers from ethnic minorities, he said.

He pointed out that Britain had a transient population: although minorities represented only 0.1 per cent of the population of Cumbria, the area attracted millions of visitors of all races. Greater Manchester had a minority population of 7.5 per cent, while Cheshire had 0.3 per cent, yet many black and Asian Mancunians visited or worked in Cheshire.

The targets mean that the Metropolitan Police will be expected to find and keep a further 5,662 officers from ethnic minorities and the West Midlands force must recruit 862. Gwent, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk are already on target.

Police must also stop officers from ethnic minorities quitting. Mr Straw told the conference that Home Office research published yesterday disclosed that candidates from minorities were less likely to be offered an interview, receive a formal offer or become full officers at the end of their probationary periods. Black and Asian officers are twice as likely to resign from the police as white officers and the rate of dismissal is two to three times higher than the rate for white officers.

It also takes a year longer for black and Asian officers to become sergeants and much longer to become inspectors. There are only seven Asian or black superintendents among 1,237 police of that rank. Only one ethnic minority officer has reached the rank of assistant chief constable: Tarique Ghaffur in the Lancashire force. No blacks or Asians have been selected for the fast-track scheme for junior officers in the past three years.

From next year the Home Office is setting targets so that the percentage of officers from ethnic minorities being promoted should be the same as the percentage of white officers being promoted to the same ranks. The percentage of officers who leave should be similar to the percentage for white officers.

The Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities welcomed the targets. John Newing, Chief Constable of Derbyshire and president of Acpo, said that the issue of recruiting was fundamental to the future of the police. Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said the targets were formidable but would have to be met.

Ali Disaei, vice-chairman of the Black Police Association, said the targets were achievable but reaching them would require imaginative work.

RECRUITMENT TARGETS: A FORCE FOR THE FUTURE

Force	% ethnic minority population	Number of extra officers needed to meet the target
Avon and Somerset	2	25
Bedfordshire	9.9	68
Cambridgeshire	4.3	19
Cheshire	1*	14
City of London	7.3	38
Cleveland	3.5	35
Cumbria	1*	10
Derbyshire	3.28	22
Devon and Cornwall	1*	25
Dorset	1*	7
Durham	1*	6
Dyfed Powys	1*	9
Essex	1.94	12
Gloucestershire	1.57	5
Greater Manchester	7.58	356
Gwent	1.06	on target
Hampshire	1.98	42
Hertfordshire	4.71	60
Humberside	1.09	11
Kent	2.4	51
Lancashire	5	123
Leicestershire	9.73	104
Lincolnshire	1.2	7
Merseyside	2.04	14
Metropolitan Police	25.5	5,662
Norfolk	1*	on target
Northamptonshire	2.32	on target
Northumbria	1.47	25
North Wales	1.1	13
North Yorkshire	1.3	11
Nottinghamshire	3.52	20
South Wales	1.47	12
South Yorkshire	3.27	35
Staffordshire	1.82	9
Suffolk	1.08	on target
Surrey	3.21	32
Sussex	2.37	47
Thames Valley	5.35	132
Warwickshire	3.99	14
West Mercia	1.96	15
West Midlands	16.11	862
West Yorkshire	9.45	345
Wiltshire	1.79	9



* Figures set at 1% for areas below 1%   Source: Home Office

Black paper is cleared over Lawrence five

By Andrew Pierce

A BLACK newspaper that encouraged its readers to hunt down the five young men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence has been exonerated by the Press Complaints Commission.

The watchdog has rejected a complaint by the parents of the five that the article in *New Nation* breached their privacy, encouraged a campaign of harassment and was an incitement to racial hatred.

The ruling comes as Gary Dobson, one of the suspects, was preparing to answer calls for 60 minutes this morning on Talk Radio's breakfast show. "We did not pay him. He approached us," said a Talk Radio spokeswoman.

The solicitor for Stephen's parents, Doreen and Neville Lawrence, said yesterday that he had asked Talk Radio to scrap the programme as it could jeopardise the continuing investigation into the murder. Imran Khan said that he would consider legal action to prevent the broadcast.

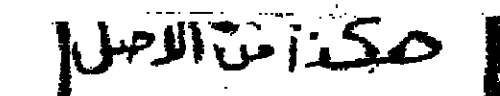
The ruling of the Press Complaints Commission, chaired by the former Tory Cabinet minister Lord Wakeham, is expected to be published within 48 hours. *The Times* has learnt that it will reject the parents' charge that the article was an invasion of privacy which was responsible for endangering the families. The PCC will say the complaint of incitement to racial hatred would be a matter for the police, not the media body.

In an article last September headlined "Do you know where they live?" *New Nation* suggested that Jamie and Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris should be visited at home.

One passage said: "There are many of us in the community who would like to visit them and offer our suggestions as to how their media image or indeed their facial features may be enhanced."

The families maintained that while their addresses had been read out at the inquest, and at the Macpherson inquiry, it was a different matter for them to be displayed in a national publication.

New Nation argued that because of the prolonged history of the Lawrence affair, it was already in the public domain that most of the men live on the Brook Estate in Eltham, southeast London.



Why we still want to be British

Brown hails survey for showing shared values that will survive devolution, writes Peter Riddell

THE sense of being British is alive and well, according to a new poll to be highlighted today by Gordon Brown against the background of devolution for Scotland and Wales. An overwhelming majority still believe that it is right for all parts of Britain to work together, and institutions such as the NHS and the Army are highly valued for showing Britain in a positive light.

The Chancellor will use a major speech on "Britishness" to argue that people in all parts of Britain have shared values and believe that they are stronger and better off together. Interviewed in his Commons office, Mr Brown was aiming his words both at separatists in the Scottish National Party and at English nationalists in the Conservative Party.

"The constitutional reform programme truly expresses British values in action," he said. "We define ourselves not on the basis of borders, but on the basis of our values." Devolution is no threat to the existence of Britain, he believes.

Not content to be merely the chief executive of new Labour, Mr Brown is also its chief ideologist. He has become a major presence in the Scottish election campaign. Today he makes the case for Britain as one nation at a London conference organised by the Smith Institute. He argues that uncertainties about Britain's future are not because people have discarded shared values, but because institutions have failed to adjust. A centrepiece of the conference will be a telephone poll of 1,000 people at the turn of the year by Deborah Mattinson, of Opinion Leader Research. Asked if they personally identified "very" or "quite" closely with being British, 73 per cent said "Yes", including 67 per cent in in Scotland and 65 per cent in Wales.

An overwhelming majority believe it is a good argument for the union that "it is important for England, Scotland and Wales to work together to be a strong force in the new global economy" — backed by 84 per cent in Britain, 81 per cent in Scotland and 89 per cent in Wales. About three quarters in each part of Britain agreed that "the people of Britain derive positive benefits from living and working together" and about two thirds agreed that "no Briton should be a foreigner in a British country and it would be wrong for the British to have to use passports within Britain".

Some 80 per cent in Britain, 75 per cent in Scotland and 88 per cent in Wales agreed that "it is important for England, Scotland and Wales to work together because we share a set of common values and concerns". In contrast, 31 per cent across Britain agreed that "Britain has had its day — the future lies with Europe". In Scotland, 43 per cent agreed.

All parts of Britain put the NHS top of a list of national institutions that show Britain in a favourable light — 91 per cent across Britain, 95 per cent in Scotland and 85 per cent in Wales. The Army was second, some way ahead of the House of Commons and the BBC.



Mr Brown argues that the British are not simply self-interested but believe in "individual fair play, fairness, hard work, tolerance and public service, as well as respect for individual liberty". Britain is "not a country where people mistrust foreigners or retreat into isolationism, but are open to outside interests and experiences".

What went wrong was that institutions ceased properly to reflect shared values. Mr Brown specifically responded to critics who argue that constitutional reform — devolution, local government reform, the Lords, the Bill of Rights and freedom of information — does not hold together but is, rather, a response to separate pressures. He says that it is a coherent programme expressing shared values and "the shift from subjects to citizens".

All the evidence is that a strong sense of local and national identity can be combined. People are "quite comfortable with being Scottish and British, or Cornish, English and British". For Mr Brown, British history is not the story of an unchanging constitution, but rather that of experimentation, adaptability and local centres of power, of challenges to "an overcentralised and overbearing state".

National counterblast proves too strong for BBC

Dominic Kennedy on an Englishman's viewpoint that dare not speak its name

WHEN a patriotic Englishman was asked by the BBC to speak the unspeakable about national pride, he did so heartily and was invited to think again. The forthright nationalism of Alan Ford, a factory worker from Leicester, was no match for the earnest caution of Philip Harding, the BBC's controller of editorial policy.

Mr Ford is the star of next Tuesday's *Counterblast*, a BBC 2 series produced by the BBC Community Programme Unit to provide a soapbox for holders of unorthodox opinions.

In the programme, titled "The race that dare not speak its name", the guest proclaims his pride in being white, Anglo-Saxon, English and working-class. He calls for an English parliament, in York, which would ban immigration from non-white countries, outlaw arranged marriages, and pay for voluntary repatriation.

"In Britain today we are not allowed to have pride in being English," Mr Ford says. "The middle-class media and the intellectuals are forever sneering at England and I for one have just about had enough. The English are discriminated against. It's time for the English to receive fair and equal treatment in our own country."

It was Mr Ford's blatant demand for voting rights to his proposed English parliament to be restricted which proved unacceptable to the BBC. Whom did he intend to deny the ballot?

Because the opinions in *Counterblast* are sensitive and liable to cause offence, each programme is discussed in detail with Mr Harding, a former award-winning producer of Radio 4's *Today*.

Mr Harding, who is English, has been accused of pandering to the Celtic fringe. He is behind a new book of BBC guidelines, Changing UK, which says England football hooligans must no longer be described as British, and bans the use of "the nation" as a euphemism for the United Kingdom.

Critics say Mr Harding's reputation for being too careful deters some programme-makers from taking their problems to him. He was responsible for the controversial BBC ban on discussion of Peter Mandelson's homosexuality.

After discussions between Counterblast's executive producer Debbie Christie and Mr Harding, the programme makers returned to Mr Ford and asked him to clarify his views on film again.

In the new version, Mr Ford says: "We need a much tighter definition of citizenship as exists in America, France and Germany.

"In order to gain citizenship, one would have to have lived here for at least seven years, to have studied the constitution at evening classes and to have sat an examination in reading and writing to prove that one knows the language."

***Counterblast* is on BBC2 on Tuesday at 7.30pm. Netlink: BBC Online www.bbc.co.uk**

Soya is 'HRT without cancer risk'

By Susie Steiner

EATING or drinking soya products could be of greater benefit to menopausal women than hormone replacement therapy, it was claimed yesterday.

Soya, which is oestrogen-rich, is eaten as a staple in Japan, China and Indonesia. It is said to reduce the effects of the menopause as well as protecting against heart disease, osteoporosis and breast cancer.

Eastern women, research has found, suffer less than those in the West from the hot flushes and dizziness that are a side-effect of the body's loss of oestrogen during the menopause. They also have lower incidences of breast cancer and lower cholesterol levels.

Professor Kenneth Setchell, who discovered plant oestrogen while working for the Medical Research Council in the 1970s, said yesterday: "Soya can offer a natural source of HRT, but I would stress that it is not as powerful as HRT. Perhaps what women can gain is getting oestrogen from their diet without the side-effects of HRT. The evidence is very encouraging at present."

One of the main anxieties about chemical HRT is an increased risk of breast cancer. While the loss of oestrogen during the menopause triggers a rise in cholesterol and the threat of osteoporosis, replacement oestrogen can stimulate the growth of cancerous tumours.

Plant oestrogen, however, behaves differently. "They have the ability to act as hormones but they can also do a similar job to tamoxifen [the breast cancer drug], which binds oestrogen receptors, so in one way it acts as an anti-oestrogen," said Professor Setchell, attending the British Nutrition Foundation conference on functional foods in Kent yesterday.

Animal trials in America had shown that consumption of soya reduced the rate of tumour growth.

Anger over Pinochet charges

Supporters claim new allegations filed by Spain to bolster case for extradition have been trumped up

By Joanna Bale, Gabriella Gamini and Giles Tremlett



Pictures in Santiago of those who disappeared during General Pinochet's dictatorship. Spanish lawyers say new allegations have been authenticated

SUPPORTERS and opponents of General Augusto Pinochet were locked in a dispute yesterday over new charges sent by Spain to Britain to bolster the extradition case against him.

As the general waited under house arrest for a fresh decision by the Home Secretary, which is expected today, his supporters claimed that the new charges had not been authenticated. Fernando Barros, the former Chilean dictator's legal adviser, claimed that several of the 33 new cases sent in the past two weeks were minor cases of police brutality against ordinary criminals.

His claims were vigorously contested by prosecution lawyers helping the Spanish investigating judge, Baltasar Garzón, in his attempt to extradite the former dictator.

The controversy came on the eve of Jack Straw's decision on whether to allow General Pinochet's extradition in the wake of the second law lords' ruling. The law lords recently ruled that the general had no immunity from extradition, but that he could only be extradited for torture cases that were alleged to have occurred after Britain signed the International Convention on Torture in September 1988.

Señor Barros said: "These are cases of common criminals who were allegedly abused by the police. There is no reason to connect them to the president of the country."

But prosecutors and human rights groups said that all of the charges forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service, which has been instructed by the Spanish Government to act on its behalf, had been independently verified. Prosecuting lawyers in Madrid said that they had presented Judge Garzón with almost 100 new cases and that he had selected only those that he thought were well documented.

The new cases had been sent to London after the CPS asked Judge Garzón for fresh evidence against General Pinochet the day after the law lords' ruling. The CPS specifically asked for new cases that were alleged to have occurred after September 1988.

The Spanish judge, who had received some 85 further charges, sent on 33 new cases to add to the eight on the original charge sheet sent to London several months ago. Alun Jones, QC, who represents the CPS, was handed a list of 11 more names when he visited Judge Garzón in Madrid last week.

Señor Barros, a Santiago lawyer studying for a PhD in London, said that Judge Garzón was abusing the extradition convention by failing to investigate cases before adding them to the list of charges. He said that new cases had been compiled by communist-backed human rights activists.

But prosecution lawyers in Madrid said that they had always used more than one source for their cases. Most cases featured either in official Chilean human rights reports or in reports from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, they said.

A spokeswoman for the CPS denied that the extradition convention was being abused, and said that Judge Garzón was not required to give full details of the charges until the committal hearing, much later in the process. "The Home Secretary makes his decision based on the type of offences being alleged and the background to them. At the committal, magistrates have to consider what the charges are and whether they are extraditable. The evidence isn't really tested until it gets to Madrid," she said.

Prosecutors in Madrid said that the extradition treaty assumed that British and Spanish courts trusted each other when they said there was sufficient evidence to bring charges. "That is why Spanish courts do not ask to see *prima facie* evidence before extraditing people wanted in Britain," one said.

Prosecuting lawyers accused Señor Barros of spreading "deliberate disinformation" ahead of Jack Straw's decision. They said that more than half of the 14 cases provided by Señor Barros as examples of Judge Garzón not bothering to check evidence were not on the lists sent to London.

> 'These are cases of common criminals abused by the police'

Many of the sources used by Señor Garzón have been the subject of controversy in Chile. The National Truth and Reconciliation Report, comissioned by the democratically elected government of Patricio Aylwin in 1990, and more commonly known as the Rettig Report, listed 2025 people killed during Pinochet's 17-year rule. Of these, 957 had disappeared and 90 were killed by civilians in political clashes. A second government report published in 1996 added nearly 1,000 more names to the list.

The reports had no judicial weight in Chile, and the Rettig Report faced heavy opposition from the right-wing military and political parties alligned to the general. There were frequent death threats against the commission members.

Patrick Robertson, General Pinochet's British spokesman, said that the case against the general was seriously flawed.

"Garzón is making serious mistakes in his personal vendetta against Senator Pinochet in a desperate attempt to keep the case going," he said.

CORRECTION

A report (Pupils turn GCSEs into a comedy of errors, April 12) wrongly attributed 20 schoolboy howlers to GCSE candidates. In fact, the mistakes were those of students in the United States and were entirely unrelated to schools and educational standards in the United Kingdom. We regret the mistake.

CLASH OVER CASEBOOKS

Activist died of electric shock

WILSON Valdebenito Juica, 28, was a left-wing activist whose violent death at the hands of the police appears to confirm official torture even in the final days of the Pinochet regime (Giles Tremlett writes).

Señor Valdebenito, who was married, worked in the mining region of Cabildo as a *pirquinero*, a freelance searching abandoned copper mines for minerals. His case is one of the eight included in Baltasar Garzón's original charge sheet, which the investigating magistrate sent to London before the law lords decided that General Pinochet could be extradited only for cases after Britain's 1988 ratification of the Torture Convention.

Señor Valdebenito's case is clearly acceptable for study by a Spanish court, because of the date, evidence and the nature of the victim. "And remember, you only need one case to extradite somebody," one of the Spanish prosecution lawyers said yesterday.

On December 15, 1988, a week after the Torture Convention became law in Britain, Señor Valdebenito was picked up by police as he left a bar. As secretary of the local branch of the Pirquineros Union, he was involved in organising the miners.

A few hours later, his body was discovered dumped by a country road. The corpse had been badly burnt by electric shocks. A blue electric cable was wrapped tightly around his right wrist and threaded through the belt loops in his trousers.

"He had been in contact with a high electric charge which provoked his immediate death," the autopsy report, carried out at Chile's Institute of Medical Law, said.

Chile's National Corporation for Reconciliation and Reconstruction, formed in 1996 to investigate more than 1,000 suspected cases of human rights abuses that year, deemed that Señor Valdebenito's death was "a direct result of the torture to which he was submitted by agents of the state".

Judge Garzón's evidence for the case is based on the corporation's report.

'Police abused their authority'

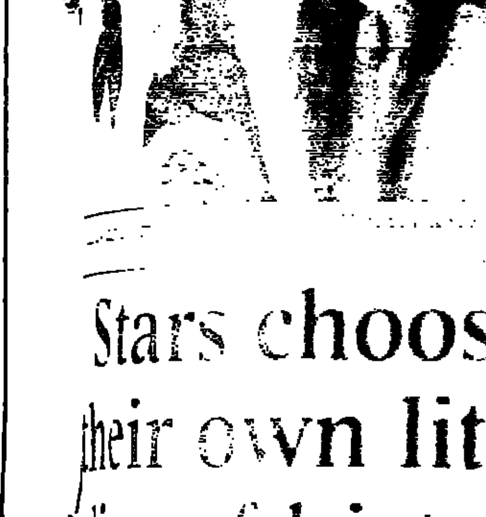
GENERAL Pinochet's supporters point to the cases of two Chilean workshop employees as clear examples of how the Spanish investigating judge, Baltasar Garzón, has failed to check his facts. They say they are simple cases of police abuse, of the type that still occurs in Chile and in many other countries.

Victor Manuel Labra and Guillermo Salvador Calderón were employed by a mechanical workshop in the town of Talagante. Señor Calderón had been in trouble with the police previously. Neither man is known to have been politically active. The workshop owner reported them to the local police because he believed they had tried to steal a engine. They were picked up by the police in July 1989, and initially confessed to the alleged crime.

A trial was held, the confessions of both men were produced and they were sent to prison. An appeal court later cleared them and the two men alleged that the confessions had been beaten out of them. "They were beaten on their hands, feet and testicles. Señor Labra was thrown to the ground, causing his nose to bleed," Judge Garzón alleges in a writ sent to London on March 26, just two days after the Lords decision, in which he added 33 new cases to the extradition warrant.

Fernando Barros, the Chilean law professor who is helping to guide General Pinochet's defence in London, said the fact that the local police used violence in their attempt to send the two men to jail did not prove that General Pinochet was systematically using torture for political ends.

Prosecuting lawyers in Madrid agreed it was possible that the evidence had come from the Corporation of People's Rights (Codepu), a group that Señor Barros claims is associated with Chile's far Left. They said the Torture Convention did not differentiate between political and other motivations for committing torture.



David Bailey bemoans the dearth of cool

DAVID BAILEY, the photographer and epitome of 1960s cool, yesterday poured a bucket of icy water on the modern idea of "Cool Britannia". Mocking the Prime Minister's idea of the British image, he said: "If Tony Blair thinks something is cool, then you know that it isn't."

Bailey was launching a retrospective exhibition on the day that he was also receiving an award from the Royal Photographic Society for his outstanding contribution to photography and imaging. The man who made his name by photographing the rock stars and models of the Swinging Sixties has called his exhibition *Birth of the Cool*.

Lamenting the uniformity of 1990s society, Bailey, 61, said: "Everything has been dumbed down now. The avant-garde has gone to Tesco's, as it were. Everyone is 'cool' and nothing is old-fashioned. Things were different in my day."

He denied that he was nostalgic for the 1960s: "Sixties London was a great place to be in my twenties, but I am happy to be where I am now. Every morning I wake up and feel delighted I do what I do."

He was in at the birth, but now master of image says it's just too ordinary, reports Elizabeth Judge

Tracing the career of Britain's foremost photographer from 1957 to 1969, the London exhibition at the Barbican Centre features more than 200 black-and-white prints. The portraits of people who have come to characterise the era include Jean Shrimpton, the Kray brothers and John Lennon. Contemporary icons are also featured, including the Gallagher brothers from Oasis and the model Naomi Campbell, as well as the photographer's third wife, Catherine, and his three children, Paloma, Fenton and Sascha.

Bailey said that his pictures transcend generations: "These pictures will never date. Hairstyles and shoes change, but faces don't. I focus on the face and avoid the rest."

John Hoole, the director of the Barbican Art Gallery, said: "It is great to be showing David Bailey's exhibition. It is a long time since he has had a big exhibition like this in London. I am sure we will get a big response." The exhibition coincides with publication of book, *Archive One 1957-1969*.

Bailey, who has just finished directing his first film, *Intruder*, had a simple response to being told that he was to receive an honorary fellowship from the Royal Photographic Society later in the day. He said: "About time."


EVA SERENY

David Bailey presents the *Birth of the Cool*: "Everything has been dumbed down now. The avant-garde has gone to Tesco's, as it were"


Bailey and Penelope Tree in 1970: "Things were different"

Stars choose their own little slice of history

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

DAME Judi Dench picked a safety pin, Sir Terence Conran nominated a Vespa scooter and for John Humphrys the choice was a horse-drawn plough. They are among celebrities who have been asked what exhibit, old or new, deserves a place in a museum.

Dame Judi told the survey by the Museums and Galleries Commission her reason for choosing the safety pin as "an object of special significance": "This has been a lifesaver to me on many occasions and, if it is not already in a museum, then I think it should be," the actress said.

Sir Terence, the entrepreneur, admires the Vespa scooter for its classic, practical design — "the epitome of chic mobility in the 1950s and early 1960s". He said: "As a young designer, I used to zip around London on one, often delivering a piece of furniture, which I strapped to the back."

John Humphrys, the broadcaster and organic farmer, went back farther in time to answer the challenge set by the commission. The plough, he explained, "is a reminder of the days before factory farming turned much of Britain into an ecological wasteland".

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, selected a silver swan automaton from the Bowes Museum in Co Durham, as "a superb work of craftsmanship, beautifully made and detailed". He added: "It is also fun. It moves, swallows fish, and bows its neck." Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leaders, chose Botticelli's *Primavera*, which has "always been one of my favourites".

Fifties Vespa: "chic mobility"

The writer and historian Sir Roy Strong selected *The National Gallery Complete Illustrated Catalogue*: "This will surely become an indispensable tool for exploring the rich plethora of artefacts connected with our own history." The radio and television presenter Zoe Ball picked a Roberts radio: "I can remember my dad doing DIY while listening to Radio 2," she said.

The commission, which is a government advisory body, conducted the survey to publicise its new website, which will feature a different celebrity each week: www.museum.gov.uk

Bees 'spread genes from GM crops'

Ministers to review guidelines as new study suggests buffer zones may be futile, writes Nick Nuttall

THE Government is to review guidelines on the isolation of genetically modified crops after a study found that bees could carry pollen four kilometres from test sites.

Farm scale trials to assess the environmental impacts of the crops have just begun with "buffer" zones between them and the countryside of just 50 metres. Government rules on commercial plantings of gene altered crops suggest buffers of 200 metres.

But the new findings, published yesterday, indicate that a revised strategy may be needed to allay public concern. The 4km distance is much further than previously supposed and indicates that any attempts to confine genes from such crops to the fields in which they are grown will prove futile.

The researchers claim that the spread of so-called "transgenes" from farm to farm will be widespread should commercial plantings go ahead. The findings have come from a team at the government-funded Scottish Crop Research Institute in Dundee who unveiled the results yesterday.

Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment, admitted that bees in particular could take pollen large distances from test sites. In a House of Commons written reply yesterday, he said that despite precautions "it has to be recognised that bee activity may in some cases involve the dissemination of GM pollen beyond the isolation distances traditionally used".

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment said that studies were under way into the consequences of bees transporting pollen over large distances. He said the existing isolation guidelines would be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment in the wake of these studies.

John Crawford, one of the research team, admitted that it had been surprised by the findings. He said that the distance over which oilseed rape pollen travelled had been unknown and of little consequence.

But concern over the impact of gene altered crops was concentrating scientific minds. "We were getting cross-pollination over large distances. There is no doubt that pollen from genetically modified crops will get out," Dr Crawford said.

The scientists planted male-sterile oilseed rape plants at 52 sites. They were positioned between zero and 4,000 metres from a 70sq km field in which oilseed rape was being grown. Using male-sterile plants meant that seeds produced by the plants were as a result of cross-pollination from the field rather than self-pollination.

The scientists found that pollination occurred at all the test sites. Nearly 90 per cent of flower buds were pollinated one metre from the field. But even at 4,000 metres away, 5 per cent of flower buds on the test plants had been pollinated.

The team says in its paper to a conference at Keele University: "The results suggest that the farm-to-farm spread of oilseed rape transgenes will be widespread."

Dr Crawford said bees could be the key to pollination at huge distances. "Bees carry a lot of pollen concentrated on their bodies. So the amount of pollen getting to a plant could be quite significant," he said.

Green groups are likely to seize on the findings to claim that superweeds, immune to herbicides, will develop in the countryside if gene altered crops are approved.

They will also alarm organic farmers who are concerned that gene modifed crops will cross-pollinate with plants such as sweetcorn, nullifying their organic status. Last July a West Country organic farmer lost a case in the High Court to have trials of gene altered crops near his farm scrapped.

A judge supported the Government's position that the risks of cross-pollination was "likely to be zero".

Adrian Beeb of Friends of the Earth said yesterday: "This research throws current thinking out of the window. It confirms that pollen from these mutant crops will be a problem for most farmers and will spread into the countryside quicker than previously thought."

He urged the Government to back calls by bodies including English Nature who have demanded a three to five-year moratorium on commercial plantings of gene modified organisms.

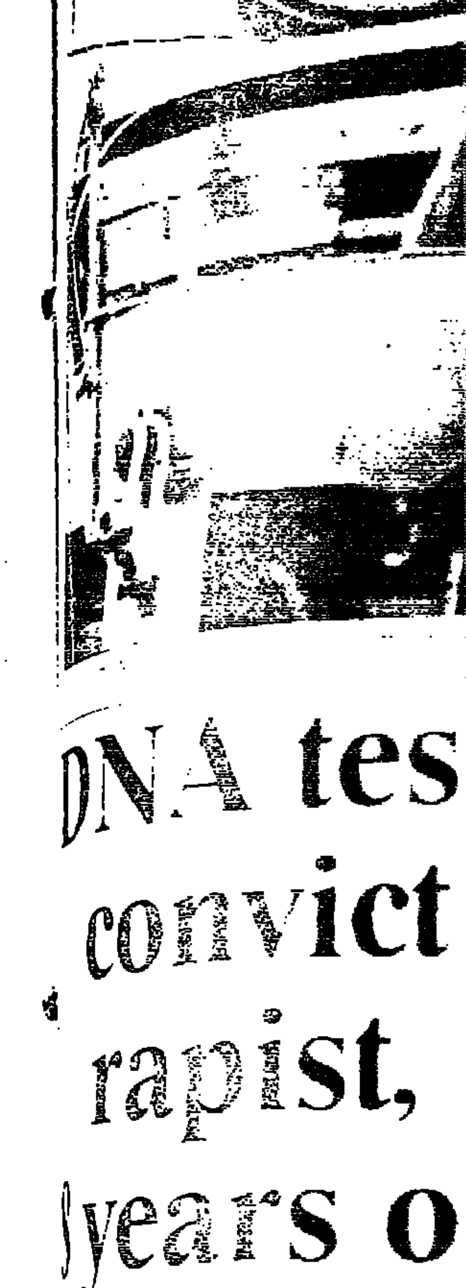
The findings come as Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, gave warning that multinational companies could "misuse their power" to foist genetically modified food on to Third World countries. She said that companies could "force this technology on to countries unknowingly — either in importing food that is the product of such technology, or seed."

Ms Short said an agreement on a biosafety protocol, covering rules on international shipments, was urgently needed.

DAVID MOIR / NEWSFLASH



Nicola Sturgeon of the Scottish National Party at the Rooftops Nursery, Edinburgh, yesterday. She said that the SNP would consult widely on education reforms



SNP in disarray as Labour seizes on budget gaffe

CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND 99

THE SNP campaign to win control of Scotland's new parliament was in disarray last night after it back-tracked on the true cost of independence. The party refused to confirm whether an independent Scotland would be saddled with a £2 billion budget deficit, prompting Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, to challenge the nationalists to "come clean over the cost of divorcing Scotland from Britain".

The Times disclosed yesterday that senior SNP strategists have concluded that an independent Scotland would have a budget shortfall of around £2 billion in 2000-01 before moving into surplus.

Mr Dewar yesterday wrote to Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, demanding that he say how an SNP government of an independent Scotland would plug the hole in the country's finances. Labour said the deficit could result in an income tax rise of 35 per cent.

The nationalists argue that the Scottish deficit is smaller in relative terms than the overall deficit for the United Kingdom. They point out that the latest official spending figures put the UK deficit at £32 billion for 1996-97.

Labour, which says that independence would be an economic disaster, described the disclosure as "a very significant development" in the parliament election campaign.

Douglas Alexander, the MP who is co-ordinating the Scottish Labour campaign, challenged the SNP to publish its economic strategy for independence without delay. Mr Alexander added: "They appear to be conceding a £2 billion black hole in their independence plans — the equivalent of more than 8p on the basic rate of income tax."

Magnus Linklater, page 22

Scots 'facing recession'

Scotland is on the verge of a full-scale recession with unemployment set to rise at its fastest rate since the early 1980s, a leading economic think-tank claimed. Business Strategies said that while the UK as a whole will suffer an economic slowdown this year, Scotland will post the worst performance with an outright decline in growth for a second consecutive year. However, a separate survey showed faint signs of recovery. The Scottish Chambers of Commerce said optimism was improving in all areas of the economy, except the manufacturing sector, although growth remains weak.

Graham pulls out

Tommy Graham, the expelled Labour MP, has abandoned plans to stand against his former party in the parliament election. The MP for Renfrewshire West had intended to stand in Paisley North against Wendy Alexander on May 6 but has pulled out, citing ill health. Mr Graham said he recently spent ten days in hospital for treatment after a contracting a virus. He was expelled last year after an investigation into factionalism and Labour membership irregularities in Renfrewshire. Investigators concluded that Mr Graham had brought the party into disrepute.

Stand and deliver...

Bemused delegates at a conference in the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh, were asked to "hand over their jewels" by four members of the Scottish Socialist Party, including the former Leith MP Ron Brown. The group, brandishing water pistols and dressed as characters from the Quentin Tarantino film *Reservoir Dogs*, were protesting against the Private Finance Initiative, which delegates were discussing. Colin Fox, SSP spokesman, said they chose the film theme to "bite back at the fat cats taking part in daylight robbery of Britain's public purse".

QUOTE of the day

Henry McLeish, on Labour plans to seize assets of suspected drug dealers without a conviction:

"These are dramatic and draconian measures but we make no apologies for what we want to do"

today's AGENDA

The campaign moves to the north of Scotland. William Hague makes a whistlestop tour of the north east, talking to lorry drivers about road tax and diesel costs. Alex Salmond will be in Inverness and Elgin. Donald Dewar will launch Labour's vision for the Highlands and Islands in Dingwall. Jim Wallace concentrates on the health service and waiting lists in Edinburgh.







CHRIS HARRIS

Tony Marchington with the locomotive for which he paid £1.5 million in 1996. He has since spent a further £1 million having it restored

Flying Scotsman on track for comeback

By Arthur Leathley
Transport Correspondent

THE Flying Scotsman, the first train to travel at more than 100mph, will return to the railways this summer after a £1 million restoration. Even today, few trains can beat the speed record that the locomotive set in 1934.

The 160-tonne engine, painstakingly restored, is to be used for charter journeys on part of its old London to Edinburgh route. It will travel between King's Cross and York.

The restoration was masterminded by Tony Marchington, a 43-year-old pharmaceutical entrepreneur, who bought the locomotive in poor working order for £1.5 million in 1996. Its rebuild was carried out at a former Great Western Railway shed at Southall, West London. Bringing in help from rail enthusiasts and companies that specialise in renovating locomotives, Dr Marchington supervised the repair or replacement of every part of the engine.

Flying Scotsman will run out of King's Cross on July 4 on a £350-per-head return trip to York including drinks and meals — the start of regular mainline charter services. It will take four hours for the 212-mile trip to York.



The Flying Scotsman: first train to travel at 100mph

LINKS

www.flyingscotsman.com/index.html The Flying Scotsman Association

www.nmsi.ac.uk/nrm/ The National Railway Museum in York

Although inter-city trains on the London-Edinburgh route can travel at up to 125mph, most trains and track in Britain are incapable of being used at speeds of more than 100mph.

Built in 1923, the Flying Scotsman ran about two million miles in service before being withdrawn in 1963. It was taken over by a succession of private charter services. It set its 100mph record on a test run from Leeds to London.

DNA tests convict rapist, 8 years on

By Helen Johnstone

A RAPIST who brought fear to women in the Midlands and the South was jailed for life yesterday after being apprehended eight years after his last attack, thanks to a DNA test.

Keith Samuels, 35, who struck at night while his victims were alone at home, carried out the attacks between 1984 and 1990. The women awoke to find him crouching in their bedrooms and were raped at knifepoint, Nottingham Crown Court was told.

Sam Mainds, for the prosecution, said the attacks had stopped when Samuels was jailed for an unrelated armed robbery. Eight years later he was arrested on a minor charge and was linked to the rapes.

Mr Justice Tucker told Samuels: "You were for six years — and, in my opinion, remain at risk of being — a menace to women." Five of Samuels' seven victims were in court to see him sentenced.

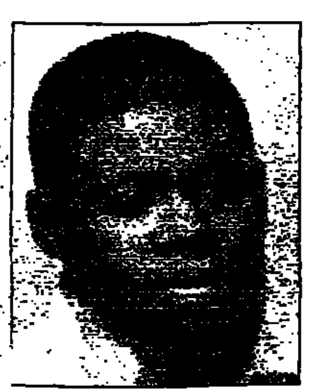
The father of two began his reign of terror in Northampton near his bedsit. Police believe he chose women in Victorian terrace houses as his victims because he was familiar with the layout of the buildings. He struck four times in Northampton between 1984 and 1987, and also carried out attacks in Milton Keynes, Reading and Leamington Spa.

He admitted seven rapes, an attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. He asked for 87 other offences, including burglaries, passing stolen cheques and robberies, to be taken into consideration.

He had begun to use escort agencies after being released from jail. When the jobless former factory worker could not afford the escorts, he started to use stolen cheques. He gave false names and took care never to go back to the same place. But he was caught out last year when he met a woman in Rugby whom he had cheated in Leicester.

Detective Superintendent Chris Cross, who led the police hunt, said: "She recognised his voice and had the presence of mind to arrange a meeting. She then contacted the police."

Two constables were lying in wait for Samuels. The officers became suspicious at his violent reaction to being arrested for a relatively minor offence. Progress in forensic science had by that time enabled DNA profiles to be developed, which showed that all seven rapes had been committed by the same offender.



Samuels: caught eight years after last attack

Realising that he fitted the description of the rapist and was on a list of suspects, police carried out a DNA test. Mr Cross said: "Samuels' name was eighth on the list of people from whom DNA samples should be obtained, so we would have eventually arrested him. The process was short-circuited by two alert officers who went out of their way to follow up their suspicions."

After the hearing one of his victims said the rape had shattered her life. The 38-year-old said: "For the first 18 months I was frightened to go into my own house at night."

مكتبة الاسد

Milosevic's opponents mourn shot editor



Tom Walker watches as moderate Serbs see their hopes for democracy buried with an outspoken journalist who condemned Nato's bombing

SHORTLY before Slavko Curuvija's funeral procession in Belgrade's new cemetery yesterday, the air raid all-clear siren sounded. On a spring day of whispers and hidden thoughts, this was perhaps the most powerful metaphor; not only had the all-clear sounded on Nato's bombs, but also on the Serbian opposition that they have so successfully destroyed.

It was a time for those opposed to President Milosevic's regime to be seen and not be seen. Being beneath the gently swaying limes and horse chestnuts was a matter of pride but also of courage, for all knew that among the 2,000 mourners were elements of a state security monolith keeping tabs on potential fires of rebellion. Mr Curuvija, who was 50 when he was killed outside his flat last Sunday — the Orthodox Easter Day — was a curious, unpredictable figure during life. In death, the flamboyant newspaper owner-editor has become a martyr for thousands in Belgrade who dream of a new dawn for Serbia.

His paper, *Dnevni Telegraf*, was a constant thorn in the side of the regime, and his magazine, the *European*, even more outspoken. Amid the censorship of war, their editorials were buried with him yesterday. No one from the Government attended, but the funeral procession was a who's who of actors, musicians, artists and writers — all of whose lives have been made immeasurably worse by airstrikes.

Those politicians expected to attend did so — such as Zoran Djindjic, the Democratic Party leader, and his new colleagues from the fledgeling "Alliance for Change". Vuk Draskovic, once the figurehead of the battle to unseat Mr Milosevic, but now his partner in government, did not, but his wife Dana was there, as was the Mayor of Belgrade, an office held by Mr Draskovic's party. Before the stretch-Lada hearse moved off and the band struck up its lament, Lilja Smajlovic, an editor of the *European*, told the mourners about Mr Curuvija's last meeting with staff, on the day he died. "He told us two things," she said. "He would not put out a paper to suit the censors, and that the Nato aggression was immoral and illegal.

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"He was a great journalist, and it was an honour to work for him. He was a courageous man, unlike those cowards who slew him in the back, and those cowards who bomb from the skies." The slow walk then began through the cemetery, one of Belgrade's most beautiful spaces, where city noise is lost among trees and graves often overgrown by wild roses and brambles.

As the earth fell on Mr Curuvija's coffin, a family member read a simple eulogy: "It shall be written that on the Easter of 1999, between the sounding of two air raid sirens, Slavko Curuvija was killed. For everything he thought of, for all he meant to us, may he rest in eternal glory."

Mr Curuvija's companion, Branka Prpa, was led away, sobbing. She was supported by her son Ivan, 18, who hid his tears behind dark glasses. Mr Curuvija's 20-year-old daughter, Jelena, stood impassive above the graveside, as the mourners drifted away down the avenue.

Not even a madman, stumbling across the freshly dug earth shouting "It was a hit job, a Serb hit a Serb," could divert her steady gaze. Others turned and wept, but Jelena remained, staring at the wooden cross.

"Slavko knew Nato would put democracy in Serbia back by 50 years," said another woman, an old family friend, walking towards the gates. "We stand no chance for as long as the West feels that Serbs deserve to be destroyed."

Mr Curuvija's mother, Cuka, almost incoherent with grief, moaned: "The oppressors killed him, but I can see that he had many friends, thank you, thank you."



REUTERS

Mourners lead the procession in Belgrade during the funeral yesterday of Slavko Curuvija, a Serbian journalist and newspaper owner who was murdered on Sunday

Rugova 'forced to sign Serb deal'

FROM TONY PATERSON IN BERLIN

FIRST-HAND evidence that Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate leader of Kosovo Albanians, was used by Serbia as a propaganda tool, was disclosed yesterday in *Der Spiegel*.

Renate Flottau, the German magazine's Yugoslavia correspondent who was imprisoned for six days with Mr Rugova and his family at their home in Pristina, reported that he was forced to appear on Serb television with President Milosevic and coerced into signing a communiqué that his people wanted a peaceful "political solution".

Frau Flottau said police surrounded Mr Rugova's house on March 31, and he was held with his wife, three children and 11 family members. Frau Flottau posed as a relative. Telephone lines and aerials were ripped out of the three-storey house and they lived on toast and watery soup. On April 1 he was driven to Belgrade to meet Mr Milosevic to "discuss a solution". Mr Rugova said the Serb leader "swore like a trooper" about Western leaders. He was then put in front of cameras with Mr Milosevic and told to sign the statement.

Frau Flottau managed to get out when the Russian Ambassador to Belgrade called at Mr Rugova's house on April 5. She said the Kosovo leader was still being held against his will.

BALKANS WAR: SHATTERED FAMILIES

Bereft couple take in Blace's lost child

Stephen Farrell reports on the kindness shown to a child cut adrift in the chaos on Kosovo's border

JEHONA ALIU, the five-year-old Kosovan refugee who lost her family when she went to the toilet near the infamous border camp at Blace in Macedonia, has been moved in with a refugee couple separated from their own children.

After days being cared for by the British Army in their Lost Children tent at the huge Brazde refugee camp on the Kosovan border, Captain Bill Soper, the officer looking after her, decided she would be better off placed with people of her own nationality.

She is now living in tent D285 at Brazde, near where she became separated from her father Sherif and mother Sadije two weeks ago as they fled the town of Ferizaj at gunpoint. Aid agencies are trying to trace her parents through the International Committee of the Red Cross registration scheme, and believe they may have gone to Albania.

The cheerful young girl is now to be found playing with others her own age outside the temporary home she shares with Fatmire Cecelija, 27, her husband Xhavit, 34, and two others. She is reluctant to talk about her mother, who was travelling with her on the train to the border, and her father, whom she left behind in Ferizaj, but shyly says she is happy with her new guardians.

It is certainly better than the aid agency tent she was first moved to, where a mentally disturbed teenager ripped off the head of her doll.

The Cecelijas, in turn, admit they feel a pang watching the new arrival play with other children when their own sons Agon, six, and Ardin, three, are missing, but they are glad to be caring for someone.

They told how they were forced out of their town, Vugiteren, on April 2 by soldiers who told them they wanted to clear the whole area. They climbed aboard a tractor and headed for the border.

"It got cold at night so we put the children with one of our neighbours in the car behind. The tractor broke down, the car went on and we became separated," said Mr Cecelija. "We arrived at a crossroads and were sent to the Blace border crossing, and we think they must have gone the other way to Jezince.

"We have heard nothing from them. We are afraid they may have been turned back at the border and not allowed to cross into Macedonia. We just do not know."

Captain Soper, of the Royal Engineers, visits Jehona daily and his men ensure her USAID tent is supplied with food, milk, soft toys and bedding.

"It is not ideal because they are very distraught about their own children, but it is the best we can do in the circumstances until her own family turn up," he said.

"It is better that Jehona is with people like us. I will worry about her like my own children," Mrs Cecelija said. "I will do the best I can for her."

No one knows how many families have been separated during the mass evacuation from Kosovo, but the UNHCR and other aid agencies are now starting to think about their longer term care and have set up a school at Brazde.



PETER NICHOLLS

Fatmire Cecelija, who lost her children in the exodus, hugs Jehona Aliu, a five-year-old separated from her family

EU backs away from German ceasefire plan

FROM CHARLES BREMNER AND PHILIP WEBSTER IN BRUSSELS

NATO raised doubts yesterday about a German-inspired plan for a Kosovo settlement involving a 24-hour halt to bombing as the leaders of the European Union searched for ways to include Russia and the United Nations in efforts to broker peace with the Belgrade Government.

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, was trying to garner support from Tony Blair and other leaders for the scheme, which aims to nudge President Milosevic into reversing course in Kosovo through the involvement of Russia and a possible UN mandate for a military peacekeeping force.

The EU leaders played down the German plan in an effort to demonstrate unity on the Nato offensive. President Chirac of France said that the top priority remained the military one of forcing Mr Milosevic to halt his campaign. Italian officials said, however, that Massimo d'Alema, the Prime Minister, "was in complete agreement with the German plan".

M Chirac, in a French initiative, proposed a UN resolution that would put Kosovo under the administration of the European Union.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, was briefing the 15 EU leaders on his own plan aimed at restoring peace to Kosovo. He also proposed putting Kosovo under international administration, which would require a Security Council resolution and thus the assent of Russia and China, with that of the Western powers. He underlined the importance of putting any international force under the ultimate authority of the UN.

The EU leaders were due to issue a joint statement proclaiming their backing for the Western military offensive.

Bonn's scheme, drawn up by Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, is for Nato to suspend the bombing once Belgrade begins withdrawing its forces from Kosovo under a peace plan to be negotiated with Russia, the United States and the other members of the G8 group of leading industrial nations.

The campaign could be "permanently suspended" once the Serb troop pullout was completed, the Germans suggest.

A heavily armed UN military force would then move in as Serbian forces withdrew. Kosovo refugees would be accompanied home and the province would be put under UN administration until a peace settlement was agreed.





New human wave crosses to Macedonia

Stephen Farrell and Joanna Bale see Brazde camp start to fill up again

NATO forces and aid agencies in Macedonia were gearing up for a fresh influx of refugees from Kosovo yesterday after more than 3,000 people arrived on trains and buses at the Blace border crossing.

The new arrivals may delay the handover of the camps by Nato to civilian relief agencies; the transfer began earlier this week and was expected to be all but complete by tomorrow.

Even as hundreds of refugee children staged a "Thank You Nato" march through Brazde, the largest of the transit camps where refugees are nervous about Macedonian policing once fewer Western troops are around to curb abuses, the arrival of two trainloads and three buses of exiles threw the proposed timetable into question. Brigadier Tim Cross, commander of the UK National Support Element, said the refugees claimed there were more behind them.

"This may be the beginning of a second wave of refugees. We cannot see beyond those hills. We should not assume anything but we are planning to absorb as many as we can."

The mood at Brazde and the other camps was positive yesterday, now that Royal Engineers and troops from other Nato countries, who set the tents up within 48 hours of the huge initial influx, have brought them to the stage where United Nations agencies and international charities can take over the running of medical facilities, food distribution and sanitation.

Brazde, which now holds 25,000 to 30,000 refugees, has spare capacity after 7,000 were relocated to other camps last week. Brigadier Cross said yesterday Nato would provide more logistical help if needed, and confirmed that he and the Macedonian Government were examining plans for expanding Brazde, which lies on an ideal site with ready access to water supplies.

The sudden influx of the more than 3,000 refugees at Blace, and 1,000 at the smaller Lojane border post, comes after the arrival of more than 1,500 people in the three previous days. Prior to that no-one had been permitted to leave. The surge has prompted fears among aid agencies that President Milosevic is expelling refugees again to destabilise a Macedonia which is reluctant to take more ethnic Albanian newcomers.

Most of yesterday's arrivals came from Urosevac, with some cars being allowed through from Pristina and Prizren. A UN refugee spokeswoman said none complained of ill-treatment, saying they had simply been told to leave immediately and were allowed to keep their jewellery and travel documents. "It is a good indication that there is at least a little more freedom of movement," she said.

After arriving at the Blace border, where until recently 65,000 were housed in squalid conditions, they were put on 20 buses and taken to Brazde. Food and water were rushed to the crossing where the 3,000 were kept waiting in the heat for hours by delays on the Macedonian side.

Igbola Zumberi, 34, her husband and four children were forced out of their homes yesterday. "The whole town is in ruins, it has been completely destroyed," she said. Adem Hasani, 38, and wife Ajete, 28, and their three-year-old daughter Anita, were given ten minutes to leave Ferizaj. "We are just glad to be safe," he said.



OLEG POPOV / REUTERS

A group of ethnic Albanian refugees take the place of earlier arrivals who have now left the Brazde camp at Blace

Shell hits Albanian school

FROM SAM KILEY IN VLAHEM, NORTHERN ALBANIA

SERB forces yesterday continued their attacks on Albanian border villages, shelling Vlahem to force Kosovo refugees sheltering with local families to flee as Kosovo Liberation Army troops prepared a counter attack.

According to both those who live here and KLA commanders in the village, which is surrounded on three sides by Serb artillery positions and a battalion of troops occupying the valley head. Serb infantry infiltrated several hundred yards into Albania — the second such move in as many days — clearly intent on killing Kosovo civilians — and hitting rebel bases.

Five mortar rounds were fired into the grounds of Vlahem's primary school. No one was hurt in the dawn attack, but the effect on people's lives was devastating. Shkilgim Ahmoti, 28, a farmer who remained in the village after the attack, said all the women and children, as well as 800 Kosovan refugees, had fled down the valley to the nearby town of Krume. "There are just a few guys here now. We have stayed behind to fight the Serbs if they try to come into our country," he said.

Thousands of new recruits, many Kosovans from America and Europe, have hurried to join the KLA, but they face a shortage of heavy weapons, and lack the skills to use them.

WORLD SUMMARY

Yeltsin appoints envoy

Moscow: President Yeltsin has appointed Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Prime Minister, as his special representative for dealing with Yugoslavia (Anna Blundy writes).

Mr Chernomyrdin is one of Russia's most West-leaning politicians.

The appointment, which came after Mr Yeltsin survived an impeachment vote in the Duma, is viewed as a sign that Russia is keen to soften its anti-Nato stance. Mr Chernomyrdin said that he may soon visit the United States "for meetings at the highest level".

Mafia on a war footing

Gioia del Colle: Business is booming for organised crime bosses making handsome profits on supplies to the Nato bases in southern Italy (John Phillips writes).

Police say local hoodlums are also involved in smuggling illegal immigrants from Kosovo and gun running across the Adriatic Sea to Albania. Montenegro and Albania are favoured hideouts for mafia bosses on the run.

Fleet shows its teeth

Moscow: Russia's Black Sea Fleet is set to carry out exercises there, and its warships are ready to sail to the Mediterranean (Anna Blundy writes). Passage for nine Russian warships to pass through the Bosphorus has been approved by Turkey. The exercises are being seen as part of a Russian attempt to scare Nato into ceasing its military action against the Serbs.

Reservists await US call to arms

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THOUSANDS of army reservists — from Midwestern farmhands to members of Congress — are waiting to hear whether they will be called up for active service in Kosovo as America boosts its military muscle in the Balkans.

The Pentagon expects to ask President Clinton to authorise the mobilistion of military reserves, most importantly to provide flight crews for the 382 additional aircraft requested by General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander, but also as army liaison personnel on the ground and back-up troops for the Apache helicopter attack force.

The US Army Reserve, with 1.4 million people potentially available for duty, is principally composed of former armed forces members who spend at least one weekend a month training and are liable to call-up in times of conflict.

Nine members of Congress could be summoned for immediate service, but many others appear on the lists, of whom the most distinguished — and least likely to see action in Kosovo — is Strom Thurmond, the 96-year-old Republican senator who is a retired general in the Army Reserve.

He took part in the D-Day landings as part of the Glider Infantry Regiment of the fabled 82nd Airborne Division, but had to obtain special dispensation to fight because he was already 41. Mr Thurmond is not on the active list, but Ben Gilman, 76, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, is among those who could technically get the call to arms. Most reservists, of course, are in their twenties or thirties.

More than doubling the air armada in the Balkans has placed fresh strain on the US Air Force and many of the extra planes, such as aerial refuelling tankers, cannot be flown without the addition of a force of reservists.

The Pentagon has also indicated that it is likely to mobilise more of the National Guard, the state military forces that the Government can call on during conflict and disasters. Several hundred Air National Guard volunteers are among the 22,000 US soldiers on duty in the Nato operation.

"If we increase the tankers sent over, the National Guard and the Reserve will have to make up the crew. We can squeeze a few more from active duty, but the majority will have to be the Guard and the Reserve," said Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Wynne, of Scott Air Base, Illinois, from which most refuelling tankers fly.

During the Gulf War in 1991, the largest recent mobilisation of Reserves, about 230,000 from the army, navy, air force and marine corps were returned to active duty.

Reservists are also likely to be called up as part of Task Force Hawk, the 24 Apache helicopter gunships, back-up helicopters and missile batteries now heading to Albania, supported by about 2,600 troops. "Civilian soldiers" will probably make up a significant proportion of the Civil Affairs Units, noncombat troops who liaise with local people and civilian authorities.

Reservists fall into two categories. About 900,000 "Drill Reserves" are men and women who have served in the armed forces or, more rarely, civilians who have undergone an intensive 180-day basic training course. These continue to train for two days every month, and 15 consecutive days a year. Behind them are the 500,000 "Individual Ready Reserves", former servicemen and women who do not train but remain on standby.

The Pentagon has estimated that the Yugoslavia operation will cost between $3 billion (£1.85 billion) and $4 billion, although congressional estimates reach $5 billion.

Even before Operation Allied Force, the US Air Force was complaining of a lack of pilots and low recruitment. Air patrols over northern Iraq have had to be suspended.

JEFFREY ALLEN



American airmen at Italy's Aviano Air Base yesterday assemble a 500lb GBU-12 laser-guided bomb

Apache force may double

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon was considering plans yesterday to double the number of Apache attack helicopters to be used against Serb troops and tanks deep inside Kosovo.

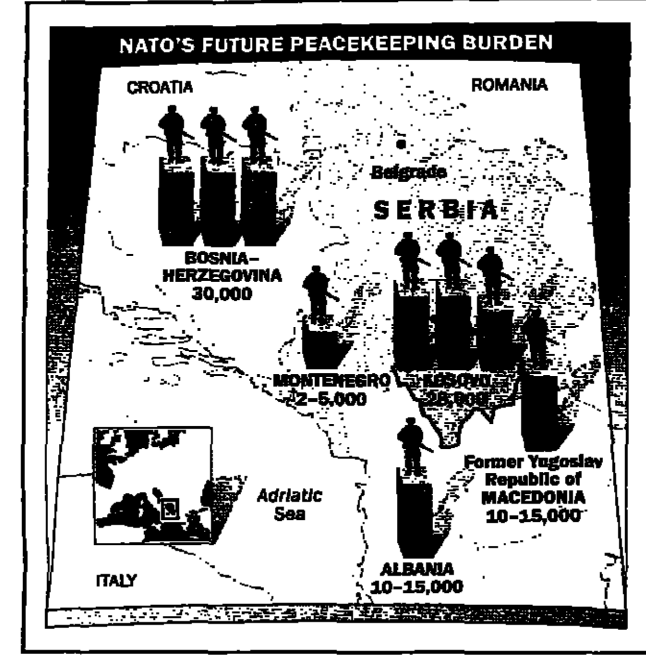
The expansion would put a task force of 48 Apaches on the Albanian border, as well as a huge array of armour and ground troops. Talk of increasing the force, a classic example of "mission creep", came as the US Army was still scrambling to make the first batch of 24 Apaches operational, which is now expected early next week, two weeks after the decision to send them.

The Pentagon said that it had not yet been finally decided to double the number of Apaches, after a report that General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander, had asked for reinforcements.

But the idea clearly was looked on favourably. Kenneth Bacon, chief Pentagon spokesman, said: "It think it's entirely possible there will be additional helicopters over time, but I would not think that would come immediately."

The army was concentrating on getting the first Apaches into place, "but there could well be more later," Mr Bacon said.

An increase in Apaches would be viewed in the context of the growing Nato build-up in the border countries of Albania and Macedonia from which a ground assault could be launched.



Nato will need UN help to keep regional peace

Michael Evans, Defence Editor, sees allies being over-extended

THE campaign against Yugoslavia could commit 80,000 to 100,000 Nato troops to peacekeeping and defensive operations in the Balkans for years unless the United Nations takes over.

The expanding conflict and use of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as launchpads for Nato action in the region have effectively made the alliance morally responsible for their security in the future.

The Yugoslav republic of Montenegro will also need some reassurance that it will not be abandoned to an avenging Belgrade regime once the present war is over.

Alliance governments are talking of the need to develop a Balkans-wide strategy. But the key element of any such policy will unavoidably mean maintaining an almost permanent military presence in the region.

Bosnia-Herzegovina is already a huge drain on resources. Last year Nato planners proposed that the 30,000-man Nato-led Stabilisation Force (Sfor) in Bosnia could be reduced by about 10,000 because of the relatively peaceful environment and increasing focus on civilian reconstruction. However, the war between Yugoslavia and Nato will have changed such calculations. The continuing stability of Bosnia has to be one of the key elements of any Balkans strategy, which means that the 30,000 troops — of which 5,000 are British — look set to be a permanent feature.

The commitment to Kosovo is also written in stone. Nato has estimated that it needs about 28,000 troops to implement a peace settlement if Belgrade signs an accord. A similar — or larger — force would be needed to protect refugees returning to their homes, without Belgrade's permission.

No one doubts that this military commitment would be required for more than three or four years. Once Nato troops are in Kosovo, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to extract them, unless the political regime in Belgrade changes beyond recognition.

Military planners always include an "exit strategy" in their operations. But in Bosnia there was never going to be an easy exit. Troops are still there after seven years.

Kosovo will be the same.

When UN peacekeepers were first sent to Bosnia, the British Government offered troops for an initial six months. There were even suggestions that the Nato elements of the UN Protection Force could be rotated with troops from other nations after six months to a year.

But no non-Nato country had the professionalism and expertise to take over the Bosnia responsibility. In due course, the UN left and Nato took charge. Along with the 30,000 in Bosnia (though not all are Nato) and the proposed 28,000 in Kosovo, it can easily be imagined that Albania and Macedonia will require at least 10,000 troops each.

Montenegro, which has had the courage to speak out against President Milosevic, would also have every reason to expect Nato to guarantee military assistance or support with up to 5,000 troops.

However, such a huge military commitment for the Balkans is clearly beyond Nato.

The problem will have to be resolved politically, not militarily, and only one world organisation has the ability to meet such a challenge: the United Nations.

Erotica leaves Frenchmen cold as women take dominant role


Siffredi: fresh approach after 1,000 porn films

A film marking a new sexual revolution has divided society, writes Adam Sage in Paris

FRENCH males were quivering like frightened rabbits yesterday with the release of what is already becoming a cult film about crude and unashamed female sexuality. *Romance*, which blurs the distinction between hard-core pornography and art, is likely to mark contemporary France in the same way as *Emmanuelle* set its stamp on the 1970s.

Its release yesterday is the most dramatic sign yet of radical changes in a society where sex has always been male, and love female.

Directed by a woman, Catherine Breillat, and featuring a male porn star, Rocco Siffredi, an Italian, the film explores a female eroticism that was supposed to exist in France only inside traditional loving relationships.

Roselyne Bachelot, one of a handful of women MPs, said: "Men were allowed to have brute sex for its own sake, but we were only allowed sex as a reflection of feelings." Until now, that is.

Mme Breillat's work features adventurous sex orchestrated by the star, Caroline Ducey, from a female perspective that is increasingly dominant in French culture.

Whereas Sylvia Kristel was the object of male desire in *Emmanuelle*, Signor Siffredi is thrust into the opposite role. Even before the film's release, intense publicity meant that almost all French women were aware of his dimensions and performances.

They have also discovered that while he has risen to every challenge in his 1,000-film pornographic career, the demands of Mme Breillat and Mlle Ducey were so great that he suffered the indignity of momentary deflation on the set last year.

Reaction to the film among experts was divided. Most women critics admired the film, described by Isabelle Potel of *Libération* as a "successful adventure into the female body". Their male counterparts were reduced to bewilderment.

"Brothers, we have to admit that Mum's a whore," wrote André Bercoff, of *France-Soir*. His response was indicative of the state of mind of the average Gallic male.

Having lapped up the sexual revolution of the 1960s, which multiplied the number of partners but did little to alter the balance of power, French men are now petrified by the cruder female version that is fashionable.

Yesterday there was clear evidence of this shift on the streets of Paris. The department store Galeries Lafayette placed three female models in its windows to promote a new collection of lingerie.

A decade ago, the sight of largely undressed young women would have drawn hordes of leering and boastful men. But those who passed yesterday appeared embarrassed and unsure of themselves.

Sebastien Sissa, 22, went puce and shuffled from foot to foot when asked what he thought of the models. His father, Alain, 48, said: "For me, they are not an object of desire at all."

They were, of course, but few Gallic males are now prepared to admit to a desire that has been outstripped by the modern female fantasies promoted by French culture.

Romance is the most obvious example. But there are others. Last year, the film *L'Ennui*, by the director Cédric Kahn, featured a young woman, played by the actress Sophie Guillemin, who enjoys sex but has no feelings for the multiple partners who fall desperately and suicidally in love with her.

The most popular novel of the past 12 months, *Les Particules Elémentaires*, by Michel Houellebecq, is in the same vein.

Its central characters are a middle-aged man who is obsessed with a catastrophic sex life and his brother, a scientist, who abandons sexual activity altogether.

Starr calls for end to role of prosecutor

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR said yesterday that America should never see his like again.

In a move that invited comparison with a turkey voting for Thanksgiving for the others in the farmyard while he lives out his old age, President Clinton's tormentor said that there should be no more independent prosecutors.

Mr Starr, giving evidence to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, said that the Watergate-era law that created the office of independent prosecutor should be allowed to lapse when it comes up for renewal in June. He argued that the post does not work and the nation would be better off scrapping it.

The man who has come to personify the role of independent prosecutor and has been fiercely criticised by supporters of the Clintons as an overmighty witchfinder-general zealously probing into the darkest corners of private lives, said that the public had not been left with a feeling that investigations of political figures were free of partisanship.

"I recommend that the statute not be re-enacted," he told the committee; investigations should be conducted by the Attorney-General and the Justice Department.

He was not, however, calling for his own destruction for, whatever the committee decides, those independent prosecutors like himself, who are already active, will be able to wrap up their business.

Mr Starr said that the attacks on him had been damaging. "The assaults took their toll. A duly authorised federal law-enforcement investigation came to be characterised as yet another political game.

"Law became politics by other means. The impact on public attitudes was unmistakable. The mechanism intended to enhance confidence in law enforcement thus had the effect of weakening it."

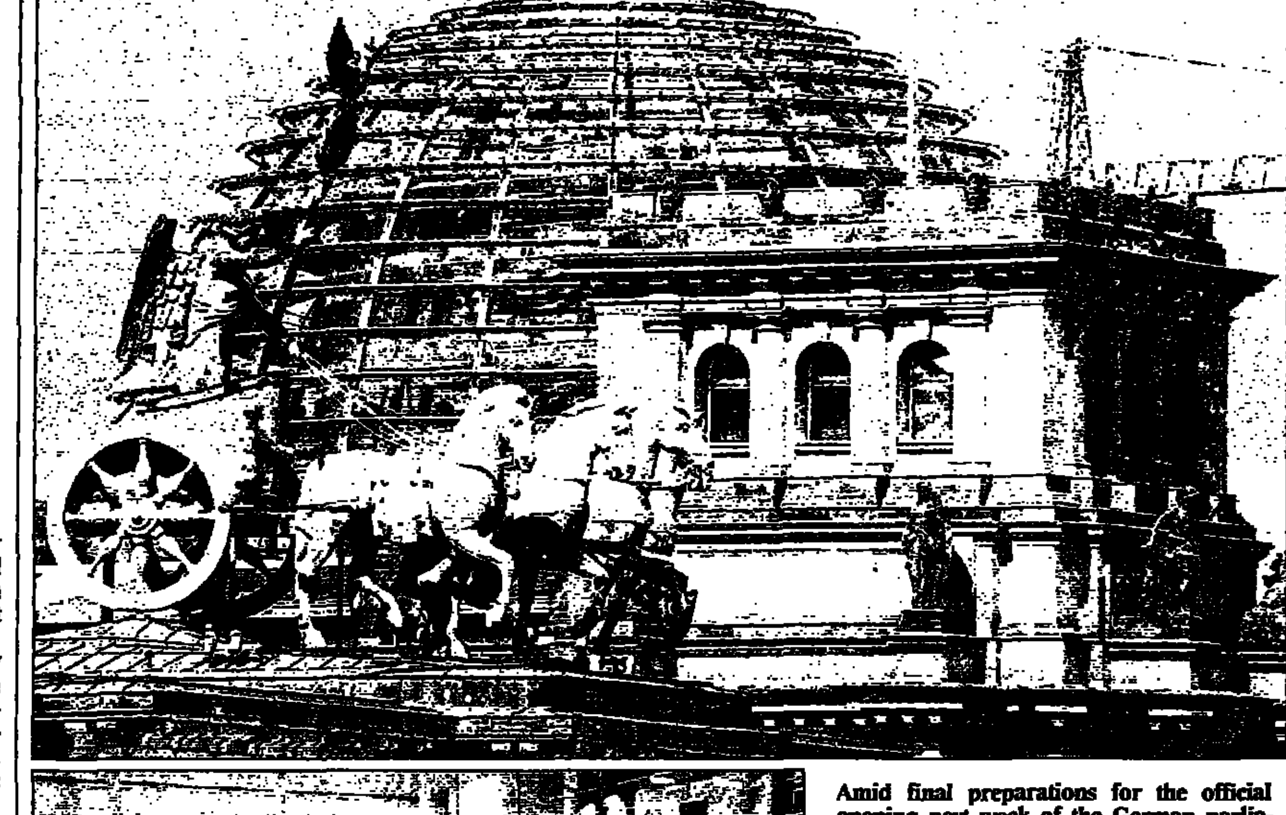
He defended his own investigation and the way that it had been expanded from the original Whitewater land deal, in which Mr Clinton was involved back in Arkansas, to the dismissal of White House travel office staff, the collection of confidential FBI files on Republicans and, ultimately, the Monica Lewinksy scandal.

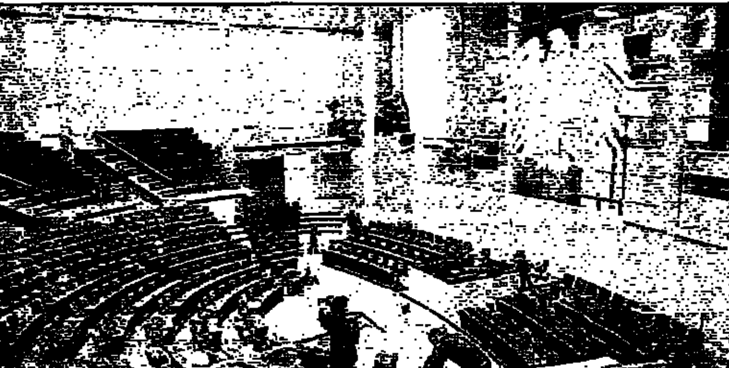
"The number of expansions is unique, and it may have fed the misconception that we were investigating individuals rather than outcomes," he said. "Let me make clear: that was not the case." He added: "Independence can be misrepresented as antagonism."

The law providing for the appointment by the Attorney-General of independent prosecutors was passed in the wake of the scandal that brought down President Nixon.

☐ **Ruling accepted:** President Clinton does not plan to challenge a ruling on Monday by Susan Wright, a federal judge who held him in contempt of court — the first time a President had been so held — for giving misleading statements on his affair with Ms Lewinsky, *The Washington Post* said yesterday. *(AFP)*

WOLFGANG KUMM / EPA PHOTO





Amid final preparations for the official opening next week of the German parliament at the new-look Reichstag building, above and left, Bonn's ministries began their 348-mile migration to Berlin yesterday.

A 24-mile stack of files and 120,000 pieces of office furniture from 81 different buildings will be moved from the Bundestag to the rebuilt Reichstag, which is to hold its inaugural session on Monday.

Berliners will get a glimpse of the new Reichstag when the futuristic glass dome, created for the neo-Renaissance structure by Sir Norman Foster, the British architect, is opened to the public on Wednesday. *(AFP)*

Mutiny among New York's finest

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Police Commissioner, who has overseen a sharp drop in crime with a much-vaunted zero-tolerance policy, faces a mutiny in the ranks for turning the city into a "police state" where people despise men and women in uniform.

The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA), representing police officers, has cast a unanimous vote of no confidence in Police Commissioner Howard Safir amid rising concern about police misconduct. The union accused him of destroying public trust by pressing officers to pursue aggressive tactics even though crime has fallen to the level of 30 years ago. Its leaders called for a "go-slow" in issuing summonses for trivial offences such as riding bicycles without bells.

"When zero-tolerance tactics were introduced, crime was at an all-time high," James Savage, the union president, told a meeting of 400 delegates on Tuesday. "Now that crime is way down, an adjustment is required. If we don't strike a balance between aggressive enforcement and common sense, it becomes a blueprint for a police state and tyranny."

Public confidence has plunged after two widely publicised cases of brutality. A Haitian immigrant was sodomised by officers with a lavatory plunger while in custody in Brooklyn. Then, in the Bronx, an unarmed West African street seller was killed in a fusillade of 41 bullets from four members of the Street Crime Unit.

Mr Safir's conduct has also been called into question since he accepted a free plane trip to last month's Oscars ceremony. He has been criticised for using police officers for as security at his daughter's wedding and for getting detectives to interrogate a driver who crashed into his wife's car. Mr Safir blamed the association vote on politicking for an internal election.

Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Mayor, said: "I appoint the Police Commissioner — not the PBA. My vote of confidence expresses very, very much the sentiment of the people of New York."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Berezovsky arrest warrant dropped

Moscow: Russia withdrew an arrest warrant for Boris Berezovsky, the country's most influential billionaire, who promised to return to Moscow to face the charges against him (Anna Blundy writes).

Mr Berezovsky, a close friend of the Yeltsin family though he is loathed by the public, is accused of transferring £155 million from Aeroflot, Russia's largest airline, to a spurious Swiss company. "I confirm that I will come back to Moscow this week," he told Interfax yesterday from his Paris hotel. Mr Berezovsky says that the charges are part of a vendetta against him on the part of Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister.

Election hit by boycott

Algiers: A day before a planned presidential vote in Algeria, six out of seven candidates announced their withdrawal in protest against fraud in early voting, throwing the crucial election into question. The move would leave only the military-backed Abdelaziz Bouteflika in the running. It was not immediately clear whether voting would go on as planned. The election was intended to give Algeria a civilian president and reconcile a nation reeling from an Islamic insurgency that has killed 75,000 people in seven years. *(AP)*

Ten face crucifixion

Khartoum: A Sudanese tribunal has sentenced ten people to death by crucifixion after tribal clashes left 131 people dead, a daily newspaper said. Judge el-Amin el-Tayeb found the defendants guilty of initiating the conflict in West Darfur, which is still under a state of emergency, *Akhbar Al-Youm* reported. The sentences have yet to be approved by the Supreme Court. The February killing of three Arab nomad chiefs sparked the disturbances in and around Geneina, the state capital, which left another 85 people injured. *(Reuters)*

Goodbye to 'Allo'

Paris: A French gossip magazine has been ordered by a court here to give up its name because it cashes in on the reputation of the British title *Hello!* and its Spanish sister publication *Hola!* Prisma-Presse, the owner of *Allo*, as the seven-month-old French magazine is called, was ordered to pay £153,000 for breach of copyright and given four months to find a new name. *Hola!*, which had tried to start up a French franchise, had been forced to settle for *Oh La*. *(AFP)*

Winning hands down

New York: Mark Kenny, 34, a salesman, won hands-down in his attempt to set a Guinness world record. He walked on his hands down 1,200 steps of the Citicorp building, beating the previous time for the same distance in *The Guinness Book of Records* by more than four minutes. The challenge took him 51 minutes and 22 seconds. Mr Kenny set his first Guinness world record in 1994 by completing a 50-metre dash on his hands in 16.9 seconds. *(Reuters)*

Pakistani test raises stakes in arms race

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

PAKISTAN'S successful test-firing of its Ghauri-II missile yesterday, in response to a similar test by India last Sunday, has raised fears in China and elsewhere around the Pacific Rim of a deterioration of security in South Asia.

Beijing, a longtime ally of Pakistan, said after India test-fired its nuclear capable medium-range Agni-II ballistic missile last Sunday that the test could trigger a new round of the regional arms race.

"The Chinese side expresses regret and concern," the Foreign Ministry said.

Speaking at Gwadur, a coastal town close to where the Ghauri-II landed after its 12-minute flight, Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, said that the missile's range could be extended to 1,440 miles by reducing its payload from the tested 2,200 lb.

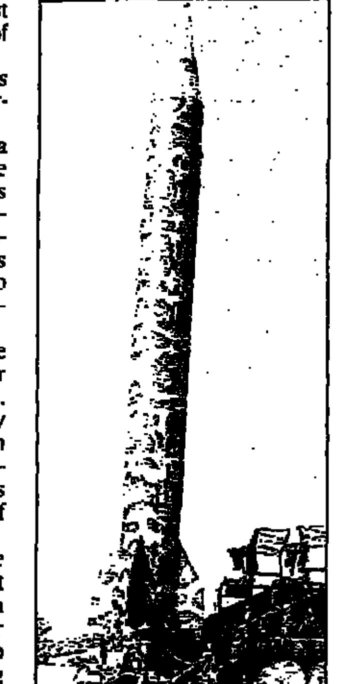
Mr Sharif said that the Ghauri-II was fired from near Jhelum, in Punjab province, and hit a target 715 miles away near Jiwani, in Baluchistan province. The weapon's maximum range puts all of India's main cities within the reach of Pakistan's military.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars in the past half century, and have been conducting tit-for-tat nuclear testing. Last May the two nations carried out matching nuclear underground trials that led to punitive economic sanctions.

India ended a five-year period of restraint last weekend with the testing of its controversial Agni-II ballistic missile.

The upgraded version of the Agni has a range of about 1,375 miles, enabling it to reach any part of Pakistan and well into China. Delhi regards its missile as a deterrent to nuclear capable China.

In an apparent conciliatory effort, a deeply-worried Beijing said after the Indian test that there had been a good trend of dialogue and an improvement of mutual understanding emerging between India and Pakistan.



The Ghauri-II at Jhelum before yesterday's test

"China hopes the two sides can settle the problems through patient, frank and meaningful dialogue," Sun Yuxi, the foreign ministry spokesman, said.

Russia expressed concern at Pakistan's actions. A foreign ministry spokesman said that the test "could lead to the further escalation of a nuclear missile arms race in Asia".

A government announcement in Islamabad said yesterday that the test-firing showed Pakistan's "determination to defend itself, strengthen national security" and to consolidate the strategic balance reached when Pakistan matched Indian nuclear tests last May.

The two nations informed each other in advance of their tests, in keeping with an agreement reached in Lahore in February when Atal Bihari Vajpayee, India's Prime Minister, and Mr Sharif held border talks to ease tension.

Both sides signed a declaration promising to take steps to prevent a nuclear clash as well as intensifying efforts to settle disputes over Kashmir and other issues.

Islamabad strongly denies reports that the Ghauri-II has links to the missile technology of North Korea or China, and said that the successful flight was the result of Pakistan's technical prowess in the field of missile development.

□ Canberra: Australia announced that it deeply regretted Pakistan's decision to test the Ghauri-II. Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, said that the testing would raise tensions in an already unstable region. "A cycle of action and reaction will not help resolve the tense security situation in South Asia," he said. *(Reuters)*

Iran launches missile

Tehran: Iran said it had successfully test-fired an advanced anti-aircraft missile yesterday that would significantly strengthen its arsenal.

The Defence Ministry said the missile was locally built, but did not give its range. Footage was broadcast of the surface-to-air weapon test, apparently carried out in a remote region.

The missile has been named Sayyad-I after Lieutenant-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi, Iran's Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, who was assassinated on Saturday in an attack claimed by an opposition group. In July Iran test-fired its Shehab-III missile, which has a range of 800 miles, putting Israel within reach. *(Reuters)*

ROB COOPER / AP



Clem Coetsee's team manoeuvre one of the sedated elephants into position before it is loaded for transportation

Elephant man of Zimbabwe refuses to follow the herd

Jan Raath in Bindura watches one man's alternative to the bloody culling of the African behemoth

A LOT of heave-ho, shouting and doses of morphine and tranquillisers are the answer to the debate over what to do with too many elephants, according to Clem Coetsee, a Zimbabwean game expert.

Instead of mowing them down in bloody culls when overpopulation threatens to destroy their environment, Mr Coetsee knocks them out, loads them on to a pantechnicon and takes them wherever they are wanted. Before he pioneered the technique, no one had tried to move anything bigger than a baby elephant.

Mr Coetsee is a veteran of more than 1,000 captures and can have a bull elephant chewing hay in the back of a pantechnicon 20 minutes after receiving a dart in its backside.

He has moved elephants all over Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. He has transported them by lorry over three days for 750 miles and is confident he can shift them in an aircraft.

But not just anyone can fire a dart next to an elephant's tail from a vibrating helicopter with pinpoint accuracy, then lug around the equivalent of a five-ton sack of meat and bones — and not only keep it alive, but also pacified.

Mr Coetsee recently moved two 25-year-old bulls that had wandered 100 miles from the Mavuradonha wildlife area in northern Zimbabwe to the maize fields of the Bindura valley 50 miles north of Harare. When he found them he leaned out of a helicopter with his dart gun and hit each beast with 8mg of etorphine, an opiate 100 times as strong as morphine (a drop in your veins would kill you in 45 seconds) mixed with azaperone, a quick-acting tranquilliser to keep them placid when the anaesthetic wore off.

Mr Coetsee appears to be the first person to have discovered that elephants cannot breathe through their mouths. When he first knocked them out, several died until he realised that they were falling on their trunks and suffocating.

"We didn't know, the boffins didn't know," he said. "It took us a little while to click on." They die in five minutes. So Mr Coetsee's team now dash to the fallen beast in case they have to drag the trunk from underneath its body.

One of his team makes sure there are no kinks in the proboscis and that nothing impedes its soft pointy prehensile tips where it sucks in air with a great echoing rumble.

The team also ensures that the elephant does not become too hot. The inside of the animal's ears are a latticework of large veins and arteries. It flaps its ears constantly to cool the blood. Left lying still in the blazing sun, the animal would die. A man with a backpack spray douses it with a fine mist of water.

One of the elephants slid back on to its bottom so that it came to rest sitting up. Mr Coetsee's team threw themselves at it until it toppled over on its side.

"There's all that weight on its lungs when it's sitting like that and the drugs have already suppressed its respiration," said Mr Coetsee. "You have got to get it out of that position immediately."

They folded its ear forward over its open eye to prevent the sun blinding it.

By this time it had also been given a large shot of haloperidol, used to treat psychosis in humans, but which will keep elephants calm for up to three days. Then it was rolled on to a rubber mat and winched into the pantechnicon.

After couple of hours the elephants were back in Mavuradonha. One jabbed a hole in a tyre with its tusk and stormed off into the bush, trumpeting majestic indignation.

LINKS

http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/ — David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
http://www.careforthewild.org.uk/ — Care For The Wild website
http://www.bornfree.org.uk/ nina1.htm — Born Free Foundation

Hello petal, this is your carer

BY ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

HAVE you ever wondered if your yucca enjoys you talking to it? Or how a potted hyacinth feels about being stroked?

If you yearn to find out, a Japanese manufacturer has devised "a unique communication tool between plants and human beings". The Plantone resembles an oversized boiled egg in an egg-cup and emits beeping sounds and flashing lights when it picks up a plant's electrical impulses.

To check the emotional state of an aspidistra, place the battery-powered gadget by the pot, clip two electric leads to a leaf and the stem and earth the third wire in the soil. The Plantone is now ready to read subtle changes in the plant's electric mood and to change them into sound through an electric circuit wired to a small amplifier inside the device.

The stronger the aspidistra's electrical impulses, the louder the beeps. The device flashes a green, yellow or red light, according to the current's strength.

The feedback from a plant reflects the behaviour of the owner, or "carer". Kazuto Mochizuki, of the Tokyo toy firm, Epoch, says. "A plant reacts most cheerfully when a carer strokes its leaves. Rather than just talk, get up close so that it feels your body temperature and breathing. The plant will sense what is going on and respond within ten seconds." Mr Mochizuki adds that "flowering plants show the strongest emotions".

The company devised the Plantone to profit from the country's present craze for gardening. Amid a prolonged recession, many Japanese are taking up trowels and shears as an alternative to more expensive leisure activities. The Plantone goes on sale in June for 6,890 yen (£35).

Jim McDonald, senior lecturer in plant physiology at the University of Aberdeen, said: "It is quite in order that electrical activity in a plant can be picked up by the Plantone. Potentially any external stimulus to the plant is likely to affect the electrical signal.

"However, exactly what stimulus would result in a large or small output is quite another and, indeed, intriguing matter."

Migrant nanny scoops £122m

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

EVEN Mary Poppins would have retired. A Chilean immigrant who works as a nanny for a Boston millionaire is in a position to buy her employer's home and business from under him and still have change for some silver spoonfuls of sugar after winning the biggest individual lottery prize in American history.

Maria Grasso, 54, is to give up the Pampers for a little light pampering, but was not sure exactly what to do yesterday after scooping the $197 million (£122 million) jackpot in the Massachusetts state Big Game lottery.

She knew she had won after the draw but had chosen to lie low while it sank in.

At a press conference yesterday, still flabbergasted, she said: "I have a large family in Chile. This is a big one. I took a chance and here I am."

Ms Grasso, a mother of two, watched the draw and checked the numbers she had chosen at random and had a restless night alone with her secret. "I couldn't believe it. I couldn't sleep," she said.

The next day she told the wife of her employer, Chris Gabrieli, a self-made millionaire and former Democratic candidate for Congress.

Ms Grasso said she would take the money in one lump sum, rather than in payments extended over 20 years. That reduces the actual jackpot to $104 million. After taxes Ms Grasso expects to net about $70 million, her lawyer said.

Riot police use a water cannon to disperse supporters of Anwar Ibrahim protesting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

Riot police quell Anwar protests

By David Watts
Asia Editor

ANWAR IBRAHIM started a six-year jail term yesterday as Malaysia's political drama reached a climax cementing the power of his arch-enemy, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister.

The sentence was more severe than expected and removes Anwar from the political scene for the forseeable future in spite of his lawyers' determination to appeal. The judge imposed a jail term of six years on each of four counts of corruption to run concurrently. The time already served in detention will not be taken into account.

Even in the unlikely event of a successful appeal, other charges of sexual misconduct and one of corruption are outstanding against the former Deputy Prime Minister, who was once anointed by Dr Mahathir as his successor.

Speaking from the dock, Anwar described the judgment as "an absolute disgrace", accusing his former mentor of plotting against him. "I have been dealt a judgment that stinks to high heaven," he told Judge Augustine Paul. It involved "an interpretation of corruption which is ridiculous, nauseating, in fact, when one considers how in Malaysia billions of ringgit of the people's money are being squandered by its leaders to save their children and cronies," he said.



Anwar waves on arriving to hear judgment yesterday

Anwar said: "The charges are part of a political conspiracy to destroy me and ensure Dr Mahathir Mohamad continues to hold on to power at whatever cost, even if it means sacrificing whatever is left of the judiciary's integrity."

The ruling had members of Anwar's family in tears. Outside the court protests erupted and police used water cannon and teargas to drive his supporters from Independence Square.

International condemnation of the verdict was swift. Amnesty International said Anwar's imprisonment was politically motivated and called for his unconditional release.

Britain said it would be studying the judge's verdict. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "We have concluded that aspects of the case give real cause for concern, in particular the relationship between the executive and the judiciary in Malaysia." He said Britain would study the case with its European Union partners.

The vicious rivalry between Anwar and Dr Mahathir came to a head over their different prescriptions for managing the country's affairs after the Asian economic meltdown in 1997. Anwar, the darling of the West and the acceptable face of Islam, was pitted against Dr Mahathir, the patriotic defender of developing-country values. The Prime Minister has strong ties with Japan, which would have been unhappy with any increased American influence in its backyard, seen as a likely consequence should the Anwar economic view have triumphed.

Dr Mahathir, 73, Asia's longest ruling leader, is officially suffering from a chest infection, but in a TV appearance last week he seemed to be suffering something more serious. He had a multiple-bypass operation ten years ago.

There is scepticism about the political potential of Wan Azizah, Anwar's wife, who has launched a political party to campaign for justice. "Today marks the day when Azizah starts off on her own," said one political observer. "If Mahathir keeps him there long enough he will be neutralised. In eight years [Anwar will not be allowed to run for public office for two years after completion of his sentence], who will remember him?"

□ **Trial proposed:** A Royal Commission has recommended that Abdul Rahim Noor, Malaysia's former police chief, be charged with beating Anwar while in custody. *(AFP)*

Leading article, page 23

French boss lands in court for hard work

From Susan Bell in Paris

THE trial of a senior executive of a leading French company on 6,000 counts of allowing executives to work overtime, has opened in Versailles.

The test case, the first of its kind in France, will force a decision on how the country's complex and sometimes Kafkaesque labour laws are to be applied when executives voluntarily work long hours to do their jobs properly.

The case is also seen as an indication of the Government's determination to make companies comply with its sweeping plans to create jobs by forcing companies to implement a 35-hour working week, thereby obliging them to hire more employees to compensate for diminished production.

Bernard Rocquemont, who was chief executive of the radar subsidiary of Thomson CSF — the defence electronics group — at the time of the alleged offences, is accused of allowing 6,000 infractions of the maximum working day in 1996 and 1997 at Thomson's Elancourt plant, near Paris.

Trade union leaders say that is 60,000 hours worked illegally. M Rocquemont could face up to a year in prison and a Fr100,000 (£10,000) fine if convicted.



Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on Binswanger's disease and the 'Mardi Gra' bomber; how a marathon runner controls diabetes; multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease; the fashion for power-napping

Crazy for a drink

Could the fact that blackmailing bomber Edgar Pearce signed his extortion notes to Barclays and Sainsbury's "Mardi Gra" instead of the correct Mardi Gras be an indication of his developing dementia?

Lawyers acting for Pearce, sentenced to 21 years in jail, claimed that he was suffering from Binswanger's disease, a claim dismissed by Judge Michael Hyams, the Recorder of London, who suggested that his mental condition was no different from that of anyone else of Pearce's age (he is 67) who has a history of excessive alcohol consumption.

Mention of Binswanger's disease must have disconcerted the prosecution's medical advisers. They needn't have worried: medical opinion is not convinced that Binswanger's disease is a separate entity.

Elderly patients with diseased cerebral blood vessels may suffer dementia, usually as a result of many small strokes, either because of a bleed, or because a small cerebral artery has been blocked by a clot. After the vascular disaster, the surrounding brain tissue becomes infarcted. An infarct is a piece of tissue destroyed as a result of deprivation of blood.

Multi-infarct dementia accounts for 15 per cent of cases of dementia. Whereas in Alzheimer's, or Lewy Body dementia, the decline in intellectual ability tends to be insidious and continuous, in vascular dementia the onset of symptoms is abrupt, and the deterioration comes stepwise. Patients maintain their status quo for some time before their mental state suddenly worsens again. Frequently the patient is unaware of the small strokes, but family and friends usually notice the deterioration. When other dementias and multi-infarct dementia coexist, a patient is said to be suffering from "mixed dementia".

It is important to distinguish the various forms of dementia since, in vascular dementia, there is usually some underlying reason for the trouble, such as high blood pressure, coronary, carotid or peripheral arterial disease. Patients might also be suffering from another form of heart disease, have too much low-density cholesterol in their blood or have diabetes. Many of these conditions should be treated, in which case the patient's mental deterioration may be slowed down or even halted.

Diagnosis of multi-infarct syndrome is usually made after an assessment of a patient's symptoms. Because they have suffered small strokes, there are often changes that can be demonstrated on clinical examination and which may later be confirmed by CT and MRI scans, X-rays of the cerebral arteries or, increasingly, MRA, in which magnetic resonance is used to scan cerebral arteries.

Those who like to distinguish Binswanger's dementia from other forms of multi-infarct syndrome use the term to describe changes from small strokes in the sub-cortical area of the brain. These multi-infarcts are also associated with a markedly raised blood pressure and evidence of disease of the peripheral arteries. The neurological evidence of the individual strokes causing Binswanger's dementia is said to be more obvious than in other multi-infarcts and the downhill course more rapid.

Some may worry about the Pearce Recorder's comments on the mental state of near-septuagenarians who drink. Unfortunately he is right if the drinking has been excessive and, in particular, if the person binge-drinks. This is associated with an increased incidence of multi-infarcts and small strokes (sometimes even large strokes). Regular moderate drinking, on the other hand, is associated with a reduction of ischaemic strokes from small clots, the most common type of stroke. Surprisingly, drinking alcohol makes Alzheimer's less likely.



JULIAN HERBERT

Flat out: unlike the Himalayan runners, these competitors in the London Marathon encounter less challenging terrain

Pocket-size secret of a triumph at 17,000ft

LAST Monday 74 runners, thousands of miles from this weekend's London Marathon, ran the same distance, starting at more than 17,000ft in the Himalayas. A new course record was established this year of 3 hours 56 minutes by a Nepalese man. Instead of running on London streets, they had to traverse steep hills, rugged trails and rickety suspension bridges. Strict instructions were issued on the etiquette of passing yaks that were carrying wide loads. The knowledgeable marathon runner passes on the inside — if not, a yak may elbow them down a precipice.

One Briton, Dawn Kenwright, who was the first woman home, not only had to triumph over the terrain and the common local problems of diarrhoea, altitude sickness and chest troubles, she also had to keep an eye on her diabetic control.

Diabetic control, maintaining the correct blood glucose level, is difficult for athletes because insulin requirements decrease as exercise increases. But Kenwright was helped by a new blood-sugar estimator so small that it would fit into a waistcoat pocket. The Esprit glucometer has the advantage of being twice as quick as similar devices and convenient to use in a one-step operation.

After a pinprick, a preloaded test strip is extruded from the glucometer, to which it remains attached. The strip is held against the drop of blood and in the all-in-one system the blood-sugar level magically appears on the display panel. So easy and rapid is the procedure that Kenwright continued running as she estimated her blood sugar at predetermined intervals. With the help of the Esprit, she was able to keep her glucose levels at optimum levels.

The Esprit is claimed to be a revolutionary advance for mobile, sighted diabetics. However, there is also demand for a "talking" glucometer to help the many diabetic patients who have problems with their eyesight. The only British talking monitor for the million diabetics with visual impairment has, on commercial grounds, recently been withdrawn.

● *Glucometer Esprit: Bayer, 01635 563000*

Coping with the cruellest of diseases

AS THE frost strips spring blossom from the trees, it is easy to see why T.S. Eliot described April as "the cruellest month". Whether or not his observation is usually correct, two of the cruellest neurological diseases have been assigned "weeks" this month.

The Parkinson's Disease Society, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, has designated this week as Parkinson's Awareness Week, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society has nominated next week as the MS Week for national awareness and fund-raising.

The message of the Parkinson's *Disease Society is* straightforward. People with Parkinson's often have a blank face, are slow to smile and to talk, and very easily fall behind in a conversation; this doesn't indicate stupidity, but merely shows that they are suffering from the disease. Many patients may live many years and enjoy a good lifestyle, provided they receive appropriate drug treatment, other necessary therapy, and have friends and relatives who understand the reason for their demeanour.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society is chaired by Sarah Phillips, the first national chairman of the society to have the disease, and the first woman to hold this contested post. Her condition was diagnosed in 1981, when she was in Washington with her husband, who was then in the World Bank. In her early married life she was a linguist, a professional LTA tennis coach and a keen golfer. After developing MS the tennis and golf had to be abandoned, but she went back to college and trained to be a remedial tutor.

She has worked in the clothes industry and in floristry; many of the flowers were grown in her own garden. She sings in a chamber choir which performs in East Anglia and France. On meeting her now, it is hard to imagine the difficult transient medical problems that she has had to overcome during the protracted course of her illness.

People with multiple sclerosis often receive the compliment "You look so well — no one would ever believe you had multiple sclerosis" with mixed feelings. Even when they are on good form, patients may suffer eye or bladder symptoms and also experience a leaden tiredness which is in quite a different league from weariness following a *few late nights.*

Carole Mackie is another person with multiple sclerosis who continues to take life at a gallop. Carole's book *Me and My Shadow* is published this week. It is an encouraging, but frank, description of the signs and symptoms of the disease and the impact it has on a still full, even riotous, life. Carole is a British Airways stewardess who made what was expected to be a routine flight to Rio in 1991. The trip culminated in her being flown home in a wheelchair. Carole, now very much better, was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis which is of the relaxing and remitting type.

● *Multiple Sclerosis Society head office: 0171-610 7171. Parkinson's Awareness Week packs: 0171-630 9022.* Me and My Shadow. Learning to Live with Multiple Sclerosis. *Carole Mackie with Sue Brattle. Aurum Press, £14.99*

It's good to have a catnap

SLEEP is for wimps, or so it is thought in the business world, politics and the Services, and competitive types can operate on five hours a night and still command their companies, regiments or, in Margaret Thatcher's case, the country.

Dr Yvonne Harrison, from the Loughborough Sleep Research Laboratory, gives warning in her book, *Sleep Talking: Science, Needs & Misconceptions*, that those of us who try to emulate them may suffer from accumulated sleep loss, particularly before a key event. If big decisions are taken when most of the world is asleep, or if there is accumulated sleep loss — not quite enough each night — performance is impaired, details overlooked, complex situations underestimated and wrong decisions made.

One solution is the Napoleonic nap. Napoleon shunned long hours in bed in favour of brief naps of between 10 and 15 minutes. Once it was thought that this was a slothful habit for those who lunched too well, but now these rests are fashionable. Sleep experts agree that naps control sleepiness and refresh those parts that are beyond the reach of caffeine. And instead of the label "forty winks", this habit is now called "power napping" and is part of the sleep patterns of the great and the good.

Whereas power naps may be permissible for the general or the chairman, there is, however, no certainty that a somnolent soldier or factory worker will qualify for a quick kip.

● Sleep Talking: Science, Needs & Misconceptions. *Yvonne Harrison. Blandford, £12.99*

Wonderful them

At last, a TV show has treated reaching 30 as though it's not the end of life, says Tina Gaudoin

Go on, admit it, you feel sorry for us don't you? The whiny "done it all, have it all, seen it all" thirtysomething generation, filled with angst over life decisions, career decisions and whether or not to spend £180 on those new Prada trainers.

We live in "nice houses", drive "nice" cars and hang out with "nice" people. The only thing missing from our lives is fun. Coke (of either persuasion) doesn't cut it, illicit affairs don't work, new babies offer momentary respite before depression sets in, the endorphins released while working-out aren't worth the bother, and shopping . . . well, we all know about the long-term effects of retail therapy.

Of course, none of the above has much basis in fact: but if you've ever watched *Thirtysomething*, *Cold Feet*, *Ally McBeal*, *Sex in the City*, or read *Bridget Jones's Diary*, you could be forgiven for thinking that us thirtysomethings are a deeply tragic lot.

Thank god, then, for *Wonderful You*, the first seriously grown-up drama that made reaching thirty look like an achievement rather than the end of the line. *Wonderful You*, which reached its final episode on Tuesday night, is scripted by the actor-writer Richard Lumsden (who plays the lead as bicycle-courier songwriter Henry) and Chris Neil. It has had us thirtysomethings, not to mention a significant sector of the rest of the viewing public, gripped.



SVEN ARNSTEIN

Top totty for both sexes on *Wonderful You:* Richard Lumsden (Henry), Lucy Akhurst (Clare) and Greg Wise (Marshall)

All right then, I'll admit some of the attraction among us females has been Marshall — Greg "sex on a stick" Wise (who'd have thought a "number 2 cut" would have affected such a transformation?) — and the gorgeous Marco (Dorian Healy), both of whom play characters from opposite ends of the social spectrum coming to terms with their lives. But what kept most of us switching on our sets week after week was the fact that the characters in *Wonderful You* actually look as though they are having fun while dealing with some pretty messy and difficult decisions. Turning thirty, in *Wonderful You's* terms, doesn't automatically mean your life is over: it also doesn't necessitate a sense of humour bypass.

The premise wasn't new — a set of friends making monumental life-choices (see *The Big Chill* for starters). Would Marshall marry Clare (Lucy Akhurst), or would Henry (who had a crush on Clare since college) win her heart? Would Henry's best friend Heather end up on the shelf, or does she secretly fancy Marco (the chef in the bar she runs), who is in turn breaking up with his wife Gina (Anna Wilson-Jones). And what would Henry and Gina's grandfather make of it all? (they are brother and sister).

If you're thinking this all sounds incestuous, consider the reality. Richard Lumsden is married to Emma Thompson's sister Sophie: Wise, you don't need to be told, is living with "our Em": "our Em's" mum, the fabulous Phyllida Law, plays Clare's mum. And, of course, they all live in the same road in West Hampstead. As if that weren't enough, the female leads Miranda Pleasence, Lucy Akhurst, Anna Wilson-Jones and Rowena King all actually live within minutes of each other in West London's Queen's Park.

> Once you're thirty you don't necessarily stop listening to music, or having sex

At first glance the venue for the drama looked a bit dodgy. Crouch End, otherwise known as "Crotch End" by us North London purists, is a higgledy-piggledy mass of late-Victorian houses perched on the side of a hill overlooked by Alexandra Palace. All very new, new Labour, but somewhat unprepossessing. As the series progressed, Crouch End's chic cred increased to the extent that property prices were being discussed at dinner-parties and pilgrimages made to see what all the fuss was about.

Of course, us thirtysomethings are far too cool to imagine that the bar in which much of the action unfolds — the Blue Sky Bar — is a real place (unlike *Friends* fans, who apparently trawl the streets of Manhattan, looking for Central Perk), but it has to be said that, should there be a second series, more than a few males I know will be loitering at Crouch End's bus stops in the vain hope of catching a glimpse of Clare and Heather.

Aside from proffering top totty for both sexes (there was also a PC homosexual relationship thrown in for good measure), *Wonderful You* offered a plethora of bang-on thirtysomething scenarios. Dastardly, ruthless Marshall comes over all vulnerable and makes the cardinal mistake of admitting to Clare that he slept with someone else during their breakup (at which point the two men I was watching with hid their eyes and shrieked "No! No! No!"); Henry starts his evening by grooving semi-naked around his flat, choosing his perfect pair of Calvin Klein boxers in confident anticipation of "a pull", but ends the night in a pit of despair after learning that Clare is to marry someone else; Heather finally has sex with her "Renaissance man", who turns out to believe in ruthless, non-protected sex; and hard-hearted smooth operator Laura tearfully professes her love for Marshall the night before his wedding. Trust me. These scenarios are not a million miles from thirtysomething reality.

The fact of the matter is that once you're thirty you don't stop listening to music, or having sex. It's just that the music you listen to is not necessarily in Tower Records' Top Ten and the sex you practise is not necessarily the stuff that would even make it onto Live! TV. *Wonderful You* offered lots of reassurance in both areas — much heaving of Conran duvets, well-toned shoulders and Van Morrison, JJ Cale, Paul Weller and Aretha Franklin. Perfect.

For the benefit of those of us who have been having sex with the same person for more than 12 months, Marshall and Clare have an early-morning post-coital conversation. Him (knotting his tie): "Better get going, then. Thanks for sex." Her (wearily): "Did the earth move?" Him (resignedly): "Totally." I'll bet hundreds of males and females also identified with Henry and Marco playing the escalator game. The theory: you have to choose your partner from a down escalator filled with people. Choose too early and you may miss out on someone better, too late and your "sure thing" may have passed you by. In Henry's case the escalator was empty, save for one old man.

So, at long last, life doesn't end at thirty — at least as far as my peers and the characters in *Wonderful You* are concerned. Sure, our lives are made more complicated by careers, relationships and commitment, but they're not any less fun. But thirty is an uncomfortable benchmark. Increasingly, for those of us who postpone marriage and children for the sake of careers, it signals the end of our youth. After Clare has suffered a debauched hen night which has included smoking dope, drinking vast quantities of wine and ogling a male stripper, she takes a pregnancy test which shows positive. Heather asks her how she feels. "All grown-up," she says sorrowfully. The greatest irony of *Wonderful You*, of course, is that it has such a huge "like-minded" fan base. If there are millions of us thirtysomethings out there living dynamic and exciting lives, just why haven't we had anything better to do on Tuesday nights at 10pm?

Death of the book or a novel way to read?

The hand-held electronic book can carry ten novels in one device. But it is no threat to the real thing, says Tim Geary

A century ago, George Gissing wrote: "I know any book of mine by its smell, and I have but to put my nose between the pages to be reminded of all sorts of things." What then, would he make of the Rocket eBook, one of the new electronic books now making its way onto the American market and soon to arrive in Britain?

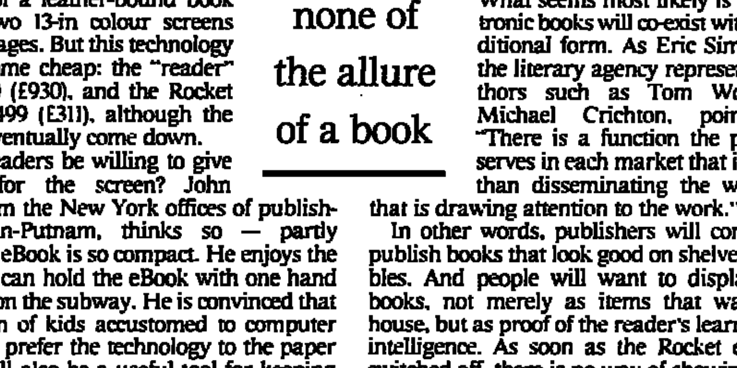
There is no denying that the Rocket eBook feels like the future. The size of a paperback and made from a sleek, grey plastic, the electronic "book" is a portable hand-held device that allows you to read text and pictures on a screen instead of off the page. It is light (22 oz) and easy to hold — the curved spine is supposed to feel like a paperback with its pages rolled back.

It is also easy to use: on the side of the 4½ by 3in screen there are two buttons for scrolling up and down the pages. There is also a touch-sensitive screen which can be used to call up a dictionary if needed, increase the font size, even to add notes in the margin. It can store up to 4,000 pages, roughly the equivalent of ten novels. And without use of its bright backlight, the battery lasts for 33 hours.

The idea of the eBook is attractive: imagine leaving for holiday without six novels, a guidebook and a dictionary weighing you down. All you have to carry is a lightweight eBook. The new technology also makes sense for anyone unable to get to a bookshop — to buy electronic books, you simply need access to the Internet. The electronic book can be downloaded for the same price as a book in a shop, first on to the hard drive of your computer and then into the Rocket eBook for immediate reading. It all takes a couple of minutes, and there are plans to place download terminals in bookstores and airports, enabling those away from, or without, a computer to make direct purchases. Once they have been bought, the electronic titles can be stored in personal computer "libraries".

Old tech: the joy of reading a book

And the appeal of electronic books will grow as the technology improves. Already a company named Everybook Inc. has developed a "reader" that is based on the shape and form of a leather-bound book but with two 13-in colour screens instead of pages. But this technology does not come cheap: the "reader" costs $1,500 (£930), and the Rocket eBook is $499 (£311), although the price will eventually come down.



> The big obstacle is that it has none of the allure of a book

So will readers be willing to give up page for the screen? John Schlein, from the New York offices of publishers Penguin-Putnam, thinks so — partly because the eBook is so compact. He enjoys the fact that he can hold the eBook with one hand and read it on the subway. He is convinced that a generation of kids accustomed to computer screens will prefer the technology to the paper books. It will also be a useful tool for keeping reference manuals updated or for reading newspapers and magazines. But there remain plenty of physical and psychological obstacles to eBook's success. For a start, few people enjoy reading from a screen: it feels too much like hard work (even though with 105 dots per inch as opposed to the 72 dots per inch on most computer screens, the eBook is easy to read). And so far there is only a limited selection of electronic books being published.

While there are plenty of business tomes, mystery and crime novels, and classics, there is little new fiction and non-fiction to entice the buyer (although NuvoMedia, Inc. recently made publishing history by providing an electronic edition of *Monica's Story* on the same day it came out in print). The problem is that publishers are reluctant to go down the eBook route because it will be difficult to control: for instance, it will be possible for British readers to purchase the electronic versions of books only published in America. Consumers may not wait for the book to come to a store near them when they can download it months earlier using a telephone line. Where does that leave the British publisher who has paid for the rights to publish and sell that American book in England?

But the greatest hurdle the eBook faces is that it has neither the romance nor the allure of a traditional book. There are no sassy colours on its cover, no roughly-hewn pages, and there's certainly no hint of the earthy scent of good paper. Who would swap those pleasures for a portable screen? And who wants to lie in a hammock on the beach holding the hard plastic of the Rocket eBook? I like to drop my book into the sand or toss it aside. Do that to the Rocket eBook and it will break.

Also, the device starts feeling heavy after 20 minutes or so. Worse, I often lost my place, both actually and imaginatively, while scrolling down pages. Nor did I like having no sense of where I was in the book. It is hard to skip ahead in an electronic book to see where the chapter ends, or to look back to remind yourself of who a character is. Perhaps such complaints will seem like nonsense in years to come, but electronic books need to feel a lot more like the real thing for that to happen. Yet lovers of the paper-bound book should not despair. What seems most likely is that electronic books will co-exist with the traditional form. As Eric Simonoff, of the literary agency representing authors such as Tom Wolfe and Michael Crichton, points out: "There is a function the publisher serves in each market that is greater than disseminating the work and that is drawing attention to the work."

In other words, publishers will continue to publish books that look good on shelves and tables. And people will want to display those books, not merely as items that warm any house, but as proof of the reader's learning and intelligence. As soon as the Rocket eBook is switched off, there is no way of showing others that you had been reading Proust.

● Shouting at the Shipmen *by Tim Geary, is published by Victor Gollancz at £16.99.*

Seconds out for chaos at the ballot box

Voters in Scotland and Wales will need their wits about them

"Oh God," said Lord Steel of Aikwood. "Don't ask me to explain it. It's far too complicated." Thus the former leader of the Liberal Democrats on being questioned about the intricacies of proportional representation (which has been his party's flagship policy for as long as anyone can remember.)

He was joking of course. At least I think he was. But he spoke for most of the electorate in Scotland and Wales as it begins, reluctantly, to grapple with a voting system that has not yet been tried in mainland Britain. For those passionate adherents of electoral reform, who attack our first-past-the-post system as inherently unfair, history will be made next month. However, all the signs suggest that those who will use it remain baffled.

For weeks now, government advertisements have been patiently explaining how parliamentary candidates in Wales and Scotland are to be elected on May 6. There will be two ballot papers and everyone will be asked to vote twice — once for a constituency MP and once for a party or independent candidate on one of the regional lists. It is this second vote which is "proportional" and is intended to secure a more balanced representation of the parties. That much is straightforward. But if you want to understand what effect your second vote will have, and how it will translate into the number of MPs your party musters, then you may have to retire to a darkened room, with a wet towel around your feverish brow. "You don't have to be a maths genius to vote, but it helps," ran a recent newspaper headline.

Magnus Linklater

Since readers of *The Times* relish an intellectual challenge, I will simply explain that on the second, or regional, ballot, the number of votes cast for each party is divided by the number of constituency seats gained — plus one. After that, the party with the highest resulting figure gains the first additional seat. In Glasgow, for example, where Labour won all ten seats in 1997, their number of votes would have to be divided by 11, whereas the other parties' votes would be divided by only one. To allocate the remaining seats, the exercise is redone, but each time an additional seat is gained it is included in the calculation until the total number of MPs is reached. I trust that is clear.

The voter, of course, has no need to work all this out. Understanding the mathematics of PR is no more important in West Lothian than it is in Wesphalia, where they have been using it for years. But it does help to know what impact the second vote will have and whether it will help to elect the people you want in power. Its intention is to achieve a fairer balance between the parties and, not surprisingly, most of those canvassed about their voting intentions say that they intend to use it as "a second choice".

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, finds that deeply alarming. He recounts how he keeps being told: "Aye, you've got my first vote all right, but I'm thinking of giving the other chap a chance with the second." Horrified, he protests that Labour needs all the votes it can get — on the first and second ballot. If it loses support on the party list, seats could be handed to the Scottish National Party. "Don't waste that second vote," is the earnest message from Labour.

The fact is, however, that in large areas of urban Scotland, a second vote for Labour may indeed be wasted. In the big regions of Glasgow in the West, and Lothian in the East, where Labour is likely to win an almost full hand of constituency seats, a second vote will not secure a single extra Labour MP. The Additional Member System ensures that parties which have won very few or no constituencies stand a far better chance of picking up the list seats. Thus, the temptation to spread your bet on the second vote, perhaps to keep out the SNP, or to boost the chances of the Lib Dems or Tories, becomes not only irresistible but even principled.

It is a real irony that the Scottish Office adverts — which have been interpreted suspiciously by some as a cover to boost the Labour vote — will actually encourage the reverse: "cross-voting" could be the only way of making the second vote count. In New Zealand, where a similar system was recently introduced, 38 per cent of voters used the second ballot in this way. The more the electorate understood the system, the more voters exploited it.

In Glasgow Govan last weekend I found the enterprising Liberal Democrat candidate, Mohammed Aslam Khan, spending all his canvassing time explaining the voting system rather than selling his party's policies. He is focusing on the 6,000 or so Asian voters in the belief that it is their best way of ensuring an Asian representative — ie, himself — in the new parliament. On the other hand his Conservative rival, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, a Pakistani television and film star, is angling for much the same support.

Since neither has a chance of winning on the first vote, it all comes down to the party lists. But it took one psephologist of my acquaintance some ten minutes of detailed research to work out who stood the best chance. In the end he could only conclude that it "could go either way".

The opinion polls suggest that no single party will have an overall majority in Scotland. That changes the whole climate in which the election will take place. It could mean a seat for parties like the Greens, who have never been represented nationally before. It will ensure the return of the Conservatives, who were wiped out last time around. And for the tactical voter, the system will require a crash course in Higher maths.

I suggest that if the excitable Mr Peter Snow is covering the election for the BBC on polling day, the paramedics should be standing by.

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Come quietly, Gerry

Sean O'Callaghan tells his former comrades in the IRA that they need friends more than firearms

Ulster may have said no in the past, but now it's Gerry Adams who is forming his lips to pronounce that ominous syllable. It seems from developments at the resumed Northern Ireland negotiations that the republican movement has rejected the Hillsborough Declaration.

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern made their joint announcement at Hillsborough exactly two weeks ago in an attempt to educate Mr Adams in his responsibilities as gently as possible. They recognise that decommissioning of illegal arms cannot be avoided. But by emphasising that handing over some weaponry was not "a precondition" they sought to sweeten the pill. They hoped they would help Mr Adams out of his difficulties. He appears not to want their help.

If that is so, and one must always bear in mind the difficulty of interpreting events in the tortured and labyrinthine world of Irish republicanism, then the peace process is in peril. After all the effort invested by the British and Irish Governments — not to mention the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists — progress to peace may well stall indefinitely. It may even be on the brink of failure.

The responsibility for failure lies, bluntly, with the terrorists. Republicans and loyalists have been given a veto that allows them to block any progress towards the development of a devolved administration for Northern Ireland. Their refusal to consider any surrender of arms throws the Province's future into dangerous question. And yet the combined vote of the loyalist and republican front-groups amounts to less than 20 per cent of Northern Ireland's electorate. Nevertheless they are the groups which dictate whether progress can be made. This is, in fact, their process. Now is the time they made their peace.

I believe most British and Irish people feel that it would be no great sacrifice for the IRA to hand over or destroy a significant amount of Semtex, thus opening the door for their full participation in democratic life. Most people would see this as a logical move by republican leaders like Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, who have proved such adept political tacticians.

Republicans now need allies more than armaments. Mr Adams admitted as much at a Sinn Fein convention. He is on record as acknowledging that his party, on its own, is incapable of delivering on its aims. I believe it is now becoming increasingly obvious to Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness that the coherent, effective long-term pan-nationalist consensus which they want can only be built when the issue of IRA guns is dealt with. The alliance between Dublin, Washington and northern nationalists, which has done so much to advance the position of Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness, was built in the early 1990s only when the IRA delivered a ceasefire. It can be rebuilt only by disarmament.

But it does not follow from this political logic that IRA disarmament will actually happen. There is an emotional logic that governs republican thinking. They still say that no IRA leadership owns the weapons. They continue to argue that the guns are held in trust for the struggle and cannot be dispensed with until victory — a united Ireland — has been achieved.

> The IRA must bite the bullet — and hand some of them over

So what do republicans do? They will twist and turn and seek to make mischief wherever possible. They do not want for opportunities. The looming loyalist marching season, the aftermath of the murder of Rosemary Nelson, the nationalist lawyer, and the debate over the future of the Royal Ulster Constabulary provide ample opportunity for trouble-making.

But whatever room there is for propaganda gains, the biggest prize within the grasp of republicans still depends on their loosening their grip on the guns. Without disarmament there will be no entry into the new executive. And without that real gain, Mr Adams's strategy will be seen by more and more grassroots republicans to have failed.

In those circumstances, the dynamic will propel the republican movement back to "war". I am convinced, as of now, that Mr Adams believes a return to "war" would end in disaster. Any new "war" would not be seen, as it was in the past, as an assault against the sinister Conservative/Unionist axis so beloved of republican apologists. It would be seen as a war against new Labour, a war against touchy-feely, nationalist-inclined Mo Mowlam. It simply wouldn't wash. Not in the United Kingdom, and certainly not, if all the public indicators are to be believed, in the Irish Republic.

So Mr Adams has a number of choices. The negotiations that led to the Belfast Agreement are over. It is a done deal, ratified by hundreds of thousands of votes. Is Mr Adams now prepared to grasp the nettle as so many other republican leaders, from Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera, have done? Will he face down the hardcore militarists and become a fully fledged constitutional politician?

Or does the unity of his movement and the baggage of his own and his family's republican past mean that he will go along with a resumption of "war" in the short term? Will he hope that both Governments will come to decide that they made a mistake by backing David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party on the decommissioning issue? Will he believe that, once the armed struggle resumes, London and Dublin will turn the pressure on the Unionists?

It is possible that he might gamble on such hopes. But he must realise how weak his position would be. For Mr Trimble would stand vindicated. He would surely, and rightly, tell republicans, "This is a matter of trust. You refused to decommission and by going back to war have demonstrated that we were right to demand decommissioning."

My strongest sense is that if both Governments remain resolute, Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness will eventually, after much sabre-rattling, have to bite the bullet. Which means handing some over.

That will produce a split. But Mr Adams surely knows the same split will happen in any event. Those in the republican movement most opposed to decommissioning are those who are, anyway, unhappy with the Belfast Agreement. There are those within the IRA looking for a reason to cut loose. Some republicans are never happy with compromises. Unless the entire republican movement returns to "war", a split is inevitable at some stage. The unregenerate militarists will go back to what they know best — murdering, bombing, torture and intimidation. Fear of a split should not prevent decommissioning. A split cannot be dodged, so decommissioning should not be ducked.

I do not believe Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness will lead any charge back to war, because they must still recognise that a pan-nationalist alliance has more potential to achieve their aims than another bombing campaign.

Some of the strongest nationalists in the Dublin establishment now admit privately (some even publicly) that they want the IRA to move on decommissioning. They are not stooges of Unionism. They recognise that Sinn Fein participation in a new Ulster executive allows them to go about their quiet but effective business of extending Dublin's influence over Northern Ireland. The IRA refusal to decommission has become an embarrassment. These people want to work with the republican movement to implement an agreement that they believe will eventually lead to the end of the Union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the establishment by stages of a united Ireland.

They are correct in their analysis that such a strategy is much more likely to succeed under a smokescreen of co-operation, honeyed words and economic inducement, unaccompanied by the sound of bomb and bullet. The war has delivered as much as it ever will.

Gerry Adams said early in the peace process that the time for decommissioning was after, and not during, the negotiations. The negotiations are over, Gerry: the Belfast Agreement was their outcome. It is time now to deliver on your own words.

The writer is a former IRA commander. He is the author of The Informer *published by Corgi at £6.99.*

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'The war against the Serbs is about projecting a self-image of the ethical new Britain bestriding the world. It is a crusade'

Mick Hume

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, can denounce "Mr Milloffosoffeffic", but he cannot pronounce him. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, seems to think that Kosovo is being ravaged by President Milosevic's "Siberian forces". Mr Cook has also assured us that he "knows" that the Serbs executed 20 Albanian teachers in front of their pupils in Goden. What he does not appear to know is that Goden is a village with just 200 inhabitants — yet, it seems, with a teacher/pupil ratio beyond even the fantasies of the NUT conference fringe.

The Balkans may no longer seem so faraway, but these are still countries of which our Government knows little and cares less. So what did Tony Blair mean when he told Parliament that the war is being fought "for a moral purpose as much as a strategic interest"? What moral purpose moved Mr Blair to become the first Labour Prime Minister to lead Britain into a major international war, involving democratic socialist airstrikes on passenger trains, TV transmitters and homes?

The war's moral purpose clearly has little to do with the welfare of the region's peoples. Kosovo's Albanians are a hapless army of televisual victims whose suffering provides a convenient pretext for war. Nato contemptuously bombed their towns and cities. Then, when the airstrikes precipitated a predictable humanitarian crisis, the "shocked" West rushed in news crews to capture the refugees' tears — "say 'rape camp' for the cameras".

The true position that the Kosovo Albanians hold in Britain's official affections is best revealed by the magical transformation these people undergo when the lucky few step off the ferry at Dover. Under the terms of new Labour's asylum laws, it's goodbye refugees from hell, hello dirty scrounging gypsies.

The "moral purpose" of Mr Blair's war is not to be found in the Balkans, but at home. As ever, foreign policy is an extension of domestic politics. The war against the Serbs is primarily about giving Mr Blair's Government an aura of moral authority and a sense of mission. It is about projecting a self-image of the ethical new Britain bestriding the world. It is a crusade.

Like their medieval predecessors, new Labour's crusaders seem almost entirely ignorant of who they are off to fight and why. It is a case of "insert appropriate enemy here", be it President Saddam Hussein or Slobodan Milosevic. All that matters is to find a suitably ugly infidel against whom to prove their own righteousness. Since the Government finds it difficult to forge a moral consensus in Britain on everything from genetic engineering to roadbuilding, it eagerly seizes opportunities to lay down the law about what is Right and Wrong on the world stage.

This is what Mr Blair meant when he announced that the war against the Serbs is "no longer just a military conflict. It is a battle between Good and Evil; between civilisation and barbarity". Implicit in this statement is that, as a counterpoint to the Evil Mr Milosevic, Mr Blair is a force for Good in Britain and around the world. New Labour has appointed itself saviour of civilisation, on a noble mission to re-educate the barbarians.

The self-image of new Britain which Mr Blair's crusade seeks to endorse is captured by touching pictures of British Army officers bottlefeeding Albanian babies and brushing the hair of young refugee girls separated from their parents. This is a nanny state with a difference, claiming the right to act in loco parentis for all those it deems deserving. Armed with a brick of moral superiority in her handbag, Clare Short, the International Development Minister, can bully Macedonian border officials about not acting like civilised Europeans. And behind her, an army of radical activists, actors, journalists and others in search of a cause with which to make themselves feel better, have signed on for new Labour's religious war.

As a new crusade, Mr Blair's war need not be restrained by the rules of realpolitik. All that matters is that Something Must Be Done, and let's worry about the consequences later. The out-of-control character of this adventure raises serious questions about where it all might end.

No doubt Mr Blair and his followers sincerely believe their war is a just moral cause. After all, the righteous (or in this case the self-righteous) can do no wrong. But those who think that anything goes so long as the Kosovo Albanians are saved might remember what happened to previous victims picked by Western liberals to justify "humanitarian" interventions. They were dropped when the moral roadshow moved on. Anybody seen an Iraqi marsh Arab lately?

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THE TIMES DIARY

Clark of words

ALAN CLARK is taking steps to ensure he remains a one-off. The magnificent Conservative MP is attempting to register his name as a trademark with the European Union. He began registering his name before he successfully took a local newspaper in London to court to prevent it from publishing the *Not Alan Clark's Diary* column, its spoof of his own chronicle.

But Clark will have to wait until mid-June before he finds out if the EU will prevent such imitations. Until then, any other Alan Clark who feels that the owner of Saltwood Castle should not enjoy exclusive rights to the use of the name can lodge a formal appeal.

There is, of course, my old friend, the Right Rev Alan Clark, the erstwhile Bishop of East Anglia, and Alan Clark, formerly of HM Diplomatic Service. "If Mr Clark encroaches on my right to use my name, I would be very cross," the latter tells me. "It's not as if he's Elvis Presley. There are tens of thousands of Alan Clarks."

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC has gone ex-directory. The Serbian leader's sole namesake in Britain, a resident of Ilford, Essex, has removed his name from the telephone book after wearying of amusing phone calls.



■ THE Cold War remains alive for Ann Widdecombe. Touring Africa with a film crew for a report on debt, to be broadcast on tonight's *Channel 4 News*, the Shadow Health spokeswoman (above) dropped in on a Roman Catholic mission in Zambia. In a scene that ended up on the cutting-room floor, one of the crew told Widdecombe he was "off to see the rushes". "The Russians?" she yelled. "Why would you want to see Russians?"

RIVALLING Kofi Annan's peace efforts, the Natural Law Party is sending 7,000 of its yogic flyers to Dubrovnik for the weekend to send "waves of bliss" across the troubled region.

■ IN THEIR first test of nationhood, the Welsh are struggling to organise an international rugby competition in Cardiff. Organisers of the Rugby World Cup are so worried that the city's Millennium Stadium will still be covered in scaffolding when they host the event in October that they have booked Wembley as a substitute.

DURING her visit to Morocco earlier this month, Hillary Clinton disappeared into a Beduin tent in the desert for a couple of days to reconnect with her spiritual self. I am unable to confirm reports that she was joined by Eleanor Roosevelt.

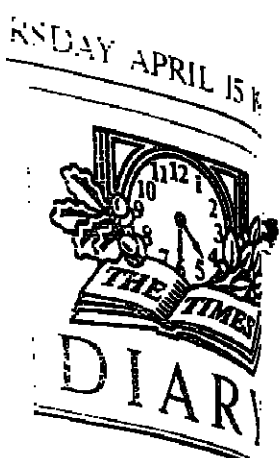


■ COULD the Dean of Westminster Abbey's decision to exclude the Bach Choir from Ted Hughes's memorial service have anything to do with the recent unpleasantness there? If you recall, the Prince of Wales had suggested to Wesley Carr that the singers, who include the Duchess of Kent, perform at next month's ceremony after the choir's patron, Leopold de Rothschild, offered its voices for free.

Carr has declined to explain why he turned down the offer. But I suspect it might have something to do with one of the choir's second sopranos, Penny Neary. She is the wife of Martin Neary, Westminster Abbey's former organist who was sacked by the Dean for alleged financial irregularities.

HOUSEHOLDERS in Kensington are to benefit from a new breed of night watchmen: roadsweepers. The Royal Borough's finest are to be trained by the police to spot suspected burglars as the cleaners clear the gutters and empty bins.

EDWARD WELSH



STRAW'S LIST

The Government should come clean on Pinochet

Jack Straw will imminently announce whether he will authorise the extradition of General Pinochet that has been requested by a Spanish judge. According to our report today, however, it now appears that a significant push to prosecute the former Head of State is coming from Mr Straw's own Crown Prosecution Service and not just Judge Balthasar Garzon in Spain. On the day following the House of Lords' judgment which reduced the extraditable charges against the General from 31 to 3, the Crown Prosecution Service asked Judge Garzon to provide information to support further charges against him. This request resulted in an additional 33 charges being raised against Pinochet. The British Government is, therefore, not just acting as an agent for Spain, as it claims to be doing, but is actually pursuing the General on its own account — which it has not admitted.

The Crown Prosecution Service's letter to Judge Garzon made it quite clear that it wanted to re-build the case against General Pinochet. It states that "we urgently need precise particulars of torture cases" and "the number of people involved and the methods of torture that were used". It explains that it needs this information in order "to be able to demonstrate that these people were actually tortured", and that "this material will help strengthen the case of Conspiracy to Torture and provide a basis for other charges."

This active pursuit of evidence against General Pinochet sharply conflicts with the Government's pretence to political neutrality. In order for a magistrate to grant an extradition order for General Pinochet, he needs to be certain only that the prisoner before him is the General and that the offences charged are extraditable. Those original three offences would have done the trick by themselves. The British Government did not therefore need any further evidence in order simply to comply with the extradition agreement. Nor does the Government need any further evidence if it is happy to release General Pinochet.

Even though any single act of torture, if proven, is an appalling offence, Mr Straw is not obliged to authorise the General's extradition. He could decide that General Pinochet is simply too old or ill, or that — as the case has been significantly weakened by the reduction of the number of charges to just three — extradition should not proceed. The General would return to Chile, and face the charges awaiting him there.

There are two possible explanations for the Government's enthusiasm for further evidence against General Pinochet. The first is that Mr Straw wanted to play an active role in building up the list of charges against him. Under Article 13 of the European Convention on Extradition of 1957, unlimited further charges can be added to an outstanding extradition warrant. If, therefore, the demands of foreign policy or other forces require the Home Secretary to release his prisoner on ostensibly compassionate grounds at the last minute, then at least he will have played his part in discrediting the General.

The Home Secretary may simply be lengthening the list of charges to improve the odds of a conviction. As so few charges remained, it was possible that none would survive the rigours of cross-examination. Whether Mr Straw and his Cabinet colleagues want to see the General imprisoned or simply substantiate an expected decision to authorise extradition, a long list of charges will help.

This has already been an unnecessarily long and complex affair. Whatever the precise reason for the Crown Prosecution Service's request for more evidence against General Pinochet, surely it is time that Mr Straw laid his cards on the table and admitted that this Government would like to see him face trial.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Malaysians may snatch victory from the jaws of legal defeat

History teems with instances of truth and justice put down by persecution; the modern world witnessed one yesterday. Anwar Ibrahim; Malaysia's charismatic ex-deputy premier and finance minister, was convicted on trumped-up corruption charges nearly eight months after being fired by veteran Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. The trial, after which the reformist Anwar was sentenced to six years in jail, was ostensibly hearing four charges that he abused power to cover up allegations of illegal homosexual encounters. But the conduct of the hearing — during which the defendant was beaten up, his lawyer charged with contempt, the charges altered when prosecution witnesses admitted they had been coerced into making false accusations, and defence testimonies ruled irrelevant — lent weight to Anwar's claim that he was the victim of a government conspiracy. The real issue in the Kuala Lumpur courtroom was the erosion of freedom; Malaysian justice, it emerges from the five-month hearing, is now both blind and handcuffed.

The verdict brings one short-term political benefit to Dr Mahathir, in power for nearly 18 years. It rids him of a potent rival for power in elections due in the next year. Anwar will appeal against a sentence which he says "stinks to high heaven". But even one year of prison will bar him from seeking office for five years after release.

The Malaysian Prime Minister's visible manipulation of justice to suit his repressive political ends has, however, served him ill even in the short term. It has earned him the opprobrium of the international community, strained relations with neighbouring states and provoked criticism from human rights groups. At home, it has awakened dormant discontents of a society already struggling after last year's Asian economic upheaval. The young, the sophisticated and the intellectually unfettered — Anwar's constituency — are slipping beyond the reach of government censorship by discussing the need for reform on the Internet. The Government's attempt to use sexual smears against Anwar has brought the country's Malay Muslim majority, the backbone of Dr Mahathir's ruling UMNO party, closer to the popular Anwar. Riots and street rallies greeted his sacking and arrest last September. Yesterday's verdict and sentencing were marked by more street battles.

A new force is emerging in Malaysia, as a result of opposition to the very trial that was intended to stifle its birth. Anwar's wife, Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, has become the focus for demands for democratic reform. She plans to head the newly-formed National Justice Party in seeking a change of government. The party, the most genuinely cross-cultural movement to take shape in Malaysia's landscape of traditional communal politics, blends Malays, Islamists and secular ethnic Chinese; with time, it hopes to transform the country's race-based politics into a mature democracy. Even if Anwar is incarcerated in prison, and even if enthusiasm for reform does not translate into votes in the next elections, opposition leaders say that they, unlike the 73-year-old Dr Mahathir, can afford to take the long view. Justice, with the support of the young, may yet have the last laugh.

A TOMB WITH A VIEW

A Roman sarcophagus with a tale to tell

As any child probing the parcels under the Christmas tree knows, expectation is just as thrilling as revelation. The locked door, the fastened chest, the sealed letter, all send shivers of surmise up the spine. Mysteries tantalise. Thus did the hearts of archaeologists began to beat last month when a Roman sarcophagus, an elaborate lead coffin encased inside, was discovered in Spitalfields in east London. The plot was set and a great British historical detective story was about to start.

Almost 150 years have passed since a similar Roman coffin was unearthed, the Minories Sarcophagus, now on display in the British Museum. Although this funerary case with its central medallion and iron brackets was in some ways more ornate than the new Spitalfields find, it was not unearthed in an archaeological investigation. Few details of its context were recorded.

This is where the Museum of London's coffin becomes so important. Accompanying artefacts of a type never before retrieved from Roman Britain have been found, a glass vial and jet canister, along, intriguingly, with a spindle whorl. These are the sort of clues from which the identity of the dead person will be pieced together. The tomb is probably that of a wealthy woman. The value of the grave goods — probably personal possessions — point to expensive craftsmanship. This grave contrasts strikingly with those unearthed near by of the Roman Britons buried only in wooden cases and shrouds.

Last night, as the lead coffin was carefully prised open, historians stood reverently, nerves overwrought. In one sense this was already a tiny crux point of time, when the past, soaring out across the centuries, brushed the mind of the present with the tips of its wings. But what was revealed was only the beginning of future research. Modern scientific instruments and methods probe historical relics in unprecedented ways. X-rays, CAT-scans and DNA tests of Egyptian mummies, for example, have revealed biological data about diet, health, life expectancy and disease of people who walked the Earth some 3,000 years ago.

Just as importantly, death and the customs that surround it lay bare the human mind. Fears expose societies' nerves. Funerary monuments reveal, perhaps more clearly than anything, the hopes and beliefs of the people they serve. From the sensational discovery of the Museum of London's Roman sarcophagus, modern Britons will not just learn a few more facts about the people who once colonised this country, laying the foundations of the present day world. They may also find more of those emotional links through

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Allied 'mistakes' in the Balkans

From Mr Frederick Forsyth

Sir, There are no military analysts left who do not concede, sometimes only privately, that Operation Kosovo is the worst-planned military adventure this country has been involved with since Suez. Only the provable and laudable fact that it stemmed from humanitarian rather than imperialist motives saves it from complete derision.

That said, it is clearly riven from top to bottom by incompetent political interference for which Messrs Clinton and Blair must bear the responsibility. It has long emerged as a one-option gamble; that Mr Milosevic will, in fairly short order, capitulate to all demands. And if he does not? What is Plan B? Blank faces; there is no Plan B and never was. Blair, Cook and Robertson are just flying kites.

Events have overtaken them all. Rambouillet is dead in the water. Among other things it provided for the continued thralldom of Kosovo by Milosevic with 10,000 Serbian police as security force. One might as well now propose a Jewish enclave of over a million souls protected by 10,000 Waffen-SS.

Mr Cook talks of continuing to bomb "as long as it takes". That is not good enough; there is a ticking clock here. In 40 more days there will probably not be a Kosovo left to liberate or a population left to restore. The former is being reduced to a scorched charnel-house; the West will be left with half a million women, children and geriatrics to care for.

Ms Vanora Bennett castigates me (article, April 13) for suggesting aid to the Kosovo Liberation Army, which she dismisses as "dogs of war" and "terrorists". The former fight only for money; the difference between a terrorist and a partisan depends simply on whose side you happen to be.

One understands that 200,000 male Kosovans are now hiding out in the mountains and forests inside Kosovo. They appear hungry, cold and unarmed. They need warm gear, food and weapons if they are to fight back. We could and should air-drop them what they need, along with Special Forces liaison officers, target-markers, radio-links, aggressive air cover and heli-borne re-supply.

The KLA alone can do nothing; air cover alone can do nothing. But co-ordinate the two and you have a fighting force. Who else is to stop Milosevic's "murder machine" (Tony Blair) as it mass-murders and gang-rapes its path across Kosovo? It is, after all, the Kosovans' homeland, not ours. Who are we to forbid them to fight for it?

Yours sincerely,
FREDERICK FORSYTH,
c/o Bantam Books,
62-63 Uxbridge Road, W5 5SA.
April 14.

From Mr Chris Kimberley

Sir, Despite the opposing spin applied by the UK Government and Nato, it is evident that the present strategy in Yugoslavia is not achieving the declared objectives rapidly. The plight of the ethnic Albanians has turned into a chaotic exodus in the face of genocide, the Serbs' capacity to commit atrocities has scarcely been diminished and Nato is not likely to be configured for a war on the ground in the region for some time.

This situation has been exacerbated, I believe, because Nato planners and the member governments failed to understand the intensity of nationalism in Yugoslavia. While diplomacy might ultimately have provided a solution, the Damoclean threat of Nato bombing did not provide an environment in which the Paris talks had any chance of success. The resulting campaign has had the effect of turning some sympathetic Serb opinion against the Nato member governments.

In the face of rampant nationalism the US and the UK have pursued and sponsored diplomatic solutions to the problems in Northern Ireland and on the West Bank of the Jordan, despite the fact that negotiators speak on behalf of terrorists. This is in stark contrast to President Clinton threatening that Nato would have little option other than attack if negotiations with Serbia failed.

A great deal of effort is now being made in Nato to ensure that member governments hold the line. If Nato cannot immediately take action on the ground in defence of the Kosovo refugees, greater effort should be taken to achieve a diplomatic solution.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS KIMBERLEY,
Tirion Pelyn, Plas-y-Wern,
Gilfach Rheda, Newquay,
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chris.kimberley@btinternet.com
April 13.

From the Reverend Giles Hunt

Sir, Since Nato is bombing Serbia illegally, without either having declared war or obtained UN authority, will the pilot whose "error" led to the train being bombed face criminal charges (report, April 14)? Or does international law only apply to those we dislike, such as General Pinochet?

Yours faithfully,
GILES HUNT,
The Cottage,
The Fairstead, Cley-next-Sea.

Instruments in a living museum

From the President of the International Society of Violin and Bow Makers

Sir, Your correspondents Mr Robert Barclay and Mr Andy Lamb (April 12) take the blinkered museum line that old musical instruments exist solely to be conserved, for the most part mutely, by panels of their so-called qualified experts.

It is nonsense to say, as Mr Barclay does, that "there is no such thing as a 'Stradivari sound'", and the late Lord Menuhin, while giving every encouragement to the violin makers of his own time (letter, October 17, 1997), would have been the first to give credit to the range of uniquely beautiful tone colours made available for his performances by the genius of Antonio Stradivari and Giuseppe Guarneri, both of whom died more than 250 years ago. Furthermore Lord Menuhin was, like many professional and amateur musicians, a very careful user.

There is certainly an argument for maintaining in museum conditions a very small percentage of the important old instruments, mainly those that have come down in immaculate preservation. Up to two dozen Stradivaris might qualify in this respect out of about 600 that survive.

The Royal Academy of Music's initiative should be welcomed. There is nothing elitist about public musical performance; indeed what could, better than concerts, offer Mr Lamb his "wide-ranging public access schedules for all levels of society"?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES BEARE,
President, The International Society of Violin and Bow Makers,
7 Broadwick Street, W1V 1FJ.
April 13.

From Professor Denis Stevens

Sir, The plan for instruments evolved by Dr Curtis Price (report, April 7) is admirable and unassailable. The exercise of wood particles is as essential as the exercise of grey matter. But there appears to be some confusion between infused tone and natural timbre. A memoir of the Norwegian virtuoso violinist Olé Bull, published in 1886, quotes him as saying that the violins of Gaspar da Salo and Guarneri have the sound of a trumpet or horn, while Strads remind him of a clarinet. A Maggini tends to be grand but somewhat hollow, while Andrea Amati is sweet and vocal.

On the other hand the tone extracted by a great violinist depends on a unique combination of subtle intelligence and the hairsbreadth control of minute muscles. I have heard Yehudi Menuhin play on quite inferior instruments owned by students, but the tone he extracted was immediately recognisable as part of his musical personality. Good luck to the Royal Academy of Music.

Yours etc,
DENIS STEVENS,
Morden College, SE3 0PW.
April 12.

From Miss Jo Cole

Sir, I would be intrigued to know the reaction of British Reserve, this country's foremost insurer of musical instruments, to Andy Lamb's assertion that "the inevitable destruction of cultural heritage" will be the result of Curtis Price's interesting proposals for the Royal Academy of Music's private collection of instruments. Mr Lamb also states that "musicians are notoriously ham-fisted".

I am sure that if this was statistically proven, British Reserve's premiums would be beyond the pocket of today's performing musicians. Mercifully they are not. Many players shell out very substantial sums to acquire suitable instruments and consequently take very good care of them.

Yours faithfully,
JO COLE,
Gate Cottage, High Street,
Hinxworth, Hertfordshire SG7 5HQ.
April 13.

Employee surveillance

From Ms Gillian S. Howard

Sir, I enjoyed Alison Clarke's excellent article ("Employees under surveillance", Law, April 6), and would support the proper regulation of covert surveillance by employers.

She says that the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Alison Halford's right of privacy had been infringed when her employer, the Merseyside Police Authority, intercepted the private telephone calls she made from her office.

Unfortunately the Court did not make such a definitive ruling. It held that it would *not* accept as a general principle that employers have a right to tap telephone calls made by employees at work.

However, the Court went on to say that, as long as employers warn their staff that their calls could be tapped, there would be no breach of the right to privacy as guaranteed by the European Convention.

It would, of course, be best practice for employers to warn their staff and we wait to see if this Government will press ahead with legislation that will require employers to disclose the fact of any surveillance to their workforce, including telephone tapping, save in cases where this would lead to destruction of vital evidence or would prevent the detection of crime.

Until the Human Rights Act is fully implemented and judges get to grips with the implications of human rights as guaranteed by conventions and charters ratified by the UK decades ago, employees will have few, if any, rights of privacy at work.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN S. HOWARD
(Employment lawyer),
34 Lyndale Avenue,
Childs Hill, NW2 2QA.
gillianh@dircon.co.uk
April 7.

Electing the Lords

From Captain M. H. Elliott

Sir, I note from your front page today that the Tory party "is on the brink of backing radical proposals for a directly elected House of Lords".

What a sorry mess our constitution is in when, in the last year of the 20th century, a directly elected second chamber of Parliament is considered "radical".

Yours,
MARCUS ELLIOTT,
Pen Dinas, Great Orme,
Llandudno, Conwy LL30 2QL.
April 12.

From the Reverend David E. Flavell

Sir, I am delighted that Leonard Allen (letter, April 6; see also letters, April 13) thinks that the House of Lords is "unique" and that its freedom from party restraint is "refreshing and, on occasions, extremely valuable". I don't.

Seeing as we disagree, can we have a vote on it?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID E. FLAVELL,
39 Halkyn Avenue,
Liverpool L17 2AH.

Protection of birds

From Eleanor Batchelor

Sir, Whilst visiting my Grandma, who lives on an unmade road full of puddle-filled potholes, I observed a strange sight.

A bird of prey was unmistakably trying to drown a blackbird in a puddle, by holding its prey under the water. It sat on the blackbird so that it was completely submerged.

Is this a common phenomenon?

(I could not bear to watch so I saved the blackbird by scaring away the hawk.)

Yours faithfully,
ELEANOR BATCHELOR (aged 10),
2 Swanmore Park House,
Upper Swanmore,
Hampshire SO32 2QS
April 14.

A proper pride

From Lieutenant S. B. Moore, RN

Sir, If I might be forgiven for disagreeing with a superior officer, unlike Captain W. K. Benbow (letter, April 10) I do not find the lack of interest in our national day bemusing or disheartening. Rather, it has always struck me as being a typical reflection of the Englishman's reluctance to cause a fuss.

I do agree, however, that the subject is worthy of study, but I feel any investigation would be of greater benefit if it could address means by which our fellow countrymen might be encouraged to take pride in their nation every day of the year.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN MOORE,
19b Granard Road,
London SW12 8UJ.
sbmoore@dial.pipex.com
April 11.

From Dr Ian Olson

Sir, Captain Benbow should take heart from the Scots, who celebrate a poet instead of their national saint. Surely England could do the same? Larkin Day sounds jolly.

Yours faithfully,
IAN OLSON,
20 Burns Road,
Aberdeen AB15 4NS.
April 11.

From Mr Richard Johnson

Sir, Captain Benbow's exhortation for Englishmen to make a greater effort to identify and thoroughly enjoy our national day, ends by giving April 23 as the date for every year.

Not so, Captain. Next year (2000) Easter Day falls on April 23 and the ecumenical body has postponed St George's Day eight days until May 2 — the day after May Day, which itself falls only one week after Easter Monday.

Yours etc,
RICHARD JOHNSON,
PO Box 110,
Worsthorne Village,
Lancashire BB10 3SQ.

UK lags behind in brain medicine

From Mr Peter J. Hamlyn

Sir, The Stroke Association is to be thoroughly congratulated for publishing today one of the first robust studies of care in the United Kingdom of an acute brain disorder. They have demonstrated in the context of stroke that in most of Britain fewer than half the victims are cared for in specialist units and that fewer than 3 per cent of the doctors looking after acute stroke victims are specialists in neurological disorders.

Stroke affects 130,000 people each year, kills one in ten of us and leaves 11 per cent of our hospital beds occupied by its disabled survivors. We have known this for many years but what the Stroke Association has just shown us is that as a result of our poor-quality care the death rate is probably 25 per cent higher than it needs to be.

The British Brain and Spine Foundation recently reported to the Health Minister Tessa Jowell the other worrying statistics, as best they are known, regarding neurological care in the UK. In no other OECD nation (the rich nations of the world) is there less than twice the number of neurosurgeons per head of population as is found in the UK. Many have ten times the number.

The neurological disorders are more common than heart disease or cancer. Head injury results in 150,000 admissions to hospital each year, dementia is more common than either head injury or stroke, epilepsy affects one in 200 of us, brain tumour 5,000 per year in addition to which one must add multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease, etc. They often affect the young, with head injury being the biggest killer of teenagers and males until their mid-twenties and brain tumours constituting the commonest solid cancer to affect children. We have the fifth highest stroke rate of any OECD nation and yet are left completely alone in defending a healthcare system that has so consistently and effectively under-resourced the care of brain and spine disorders.

For too long this has been justified on the basis that the brain is too complicated an organ to treat. The advances of the past two decades have changed this. What has not changed is the proportion of our health resources directed towards the care of these disorders. The Stroke Association has shown us in this latest paper the bleak consequence of this inaction.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. HAMLYN
(Consultant neurosurgeon),
Vice-Chairman, British Brain & Spine Foundation,
7 Winchester House,
Kennington Park,
Cranmer Road, SW9 6EJ.
April 14.

From the Chairman of Council of The Stroke Association and others

Sir, We are writing today to the Secretary of State for Health to urge him to increase the priority given to stroke care within the National Health Service. Although a target in *Our Healthier Nation* (February 1998), stroke care seems to be slipping down the healthcare agenda.

The Stroke Association's report, *Stroke Care — a matter of chance*, shows that there has been some improvement since our last survey in 1992. Unfortunately, with patients only having a 50:50 chance of access to a stroke unit, we still have a long way to go.

As academics and health professionals actively employed in stroke prevention, treatment and care we reiterate the need for stroke units and plead that this need is met urgently.

Faithfully,
SKELMERSDALE,
Chairman of Council,
The Stroke Association,
PHILIP BATH,
Chair in stroke medicine,
University of Nottingham,
MARTIN DENNIS,
Chairman, British Association of Stroke Physicians,
The Stroke Association,
Stroke House,
Whitecross Street, EC1Y 8JJ.
April 14.

Spirits of the age

From Mr John B. Murphy

Sir, In this street both the pub and the church have recently been converted into flats. Pray, Sir, how should I interpret these metamorphoses?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MURPHY,
4 Sparrow House,
73 Cephas Avenue, E1 4AR.
April 14.

Calendar girls

From Mr Douglas Marshall

Sir, A credit to the North and a joy to all are the comely ladies of the Rylstone Women's Institute (report and picture, April 13).

Such a challenge, nevertheless, should not remain unanswered. Forward, members of the Townswomen's Guild.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS MARSHALL,
31 Gondar Gardens,



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 14: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today gave a Reception at Windsor Castle for members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association.

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 14: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this evening attended a Dinner for Voluntary Service Overseas at Frogmore House, Windsor.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 14: The Princess Royal, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, this morning visited the Route 53 Mentoring Plus Project, Brentford Avenue, Cheetham, Manchester, and attended a Seminar at the University of Manchester's Refectory Building and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Manchester High School for Girls, during their 125th Anniversary year, at Grangethorpe Road, Manchester.

The Princess Royal later visited St Ann's Hospice, Little Hulton, Salford, Manchester.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 14: The Duke of Gloucester this morning called upon the Mayor of Poznan (Mr Ryszard Grobelny) and afterwards visited the Old Town Square, Poznan.

His Royal Highness later called upon the Regional Governor (Mr Maciej Musial) and the Marshal of the Regional Government (Mr Stanislaw Mikolajczak) and afterwards visited the Poligrafia and Infosystem Trade Fairs, Poligrafia, Poznan.

The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon attended a Service and laid a Wreath at the Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery (a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery).

Later His Royal Highness visited Glaxo-Wellcome to view the Quality Control Laboratory, Poznan, Poland.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 14: The Duke of Kent, President, The Stroke Association, this afternoon attended the International Scientific Centenary Conference at the Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, London, NW1.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as patron, the Manchester Grammar School Foundation Bursary Appeal, will visit the school, at 10.20; and will visit Ducie High School at noon.

The Princess Royal, as patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, attend its spring meeting at York University at 10; opens the Rutland Family Support Centre at the Parks School, Oakham, at 1.50; opens Voluntary Action Rutland's Volunteer Centre at 2.40; will visit Rutland Electric Fencing to mark its 25th anniversary at 3.35; and will present a traditional horseshoe, requested of peers of the realm, to the Lord of the Manor at Oakham Castle at 4.25. Later, as patron, the Development Trust (for the mentally handicapped) will attend a dinner at 11 Hill Street, London at 7.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a service of thanksiving to mark the centenary of the League of St Bartholomew's Nurses in St Bartholomew-the-Great church, West Smithfield, London, at 4.55.

Princess Alexandra will attend the 20th reunion dinner of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association at the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, Armoury House, London, at 7.15.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at: www.royal.gov.uk

Birthdays today

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, 59; Dame Jocelyn Barrow, former deputy chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council, 70; Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, former civil servant, 68; Group Captain David Bolton, former Director, Royal United Services Institute, 67; Professor Sir Michael Bond, Vice-Principal, Glasgow University, 63; Sir Adrian Cadbury, former chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, 70; Mr Tony Calvert, founder, Terrence Higgins Trust, 43; Miss Claudia Cardinale, actress, 61; Sir Richard Evans, former diplomat, 71; Lord Geraint, 74; Professor Michael Gibbons, secretary-general, Association of Commonwealth Universities, 60; Sir Patrick Gillam, chairman, Standard Chartered, 66; Lord Grey of Naunton, 89; Sir Tim Lankester, director, School of Oriental and African Studies, 57; Baroness Linklater of Butterstone, 56; Sir Neville Marriner, conductor, 75; Mr Alan Plater, scriptwriter, 64; Mr A.J.P. Ross, former chairman, Joint Consultants Committee, 64; Earl Russell, FBA, 62; Sir Maurice Shock, former Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 73; Sir Leslie Smith, former chairman, BOC Group, 80; Mr G.H. Stafford, FRS, former Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 79; Miss Emma Thompson, actress, 40; Miss Meriol Trevor, author, 80; Dr Richard von Weizsacker, former President of Germany, 79; Sir Douglas Wass, former civil servant, 76.

Dinners

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were the hosts at the Easter banquet held last night at the Mansion House in honour of Members of the Diplomatic Corps and their escorts, together with the Sheriffs, members of the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts. The Lord Mayor, the Ambassador of Lebanon and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs were the speakers. Among those present were:
Mrs Robin Cook, the Speaker, Mr Murdo Maclean, the Lord Chamberlain and Lady Camoys, the Bishop of London and Mrs Chartres, Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, Lord and Lady Levy, Sir Peter Studd, Mrs Anne Hervey-Bathurst, the Permanent Under Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service and Lady Kerr, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and the Hon Lady Weatherall, and the Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps.

Lord Elibank
Lord Elibank was the host at a dinner held last night at the House of Lords for the Parliamentary Group for Energy Studies. Dr Kim Howells, Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs, was the guest of honour.

Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers
Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, Master of the Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, presided at the livery's annual Motor Industry dinner held last night at Butchers' Hall. Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Mullens, and Mr Bill Morris, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, also spoke. The Chairman and Managing Director of the Ford Motor Company and the Director-General of the Defence Manufacturers Association were among the guests.

A Motor Centenary Livery Bursary was awarded to Mr Nicholas Smart.

Legal appointments

Mr Justice Mance, 55, to be a Lord Justice of Appeal from April 28. He will replace Lord Justice Hirst, who is retiring on April 27. Mr Justice Mance was appointed a judge of the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) in 1993.

Mr Thomas Simon Ashwell Hawkesworth, QC, 55, to be a Circuit Judge on the North Eastern Circuit. He became a deputy Circuit Judge in 1980 and a Recorder in 1982.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Bathurst was christened Hermione Mary Callander by the Rev Christopher Cooke at St Peter's, Wrockwardine, on Sunday, April 11. The godparents are Mr Duncan Hill, Mr Simon Leschallas, Mrs Charles Houston and Mrs Jolyon Prowse.



Alan Howarth at Ponsanooth Chapel yesterday with Candy Atherton, MP for the area

15 Cornish chapels listed

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES
SOUTH-WEST CORRESPONDENT

CORNWALL's finest Nonconformist chapels have been protected for posterity after a five-year study by English Heritage.

Alan Howarth, the Arts minister, announced yesterday that 15 chapels have been listed and 12 upgraded. It is the first time one type of historic building has been so comprehensively surveyed to ensure the best examples survive.

In the 19th century Cornwall had more than 700 chapels attended by more than two thirds of the population, inspired by preachers like John Wesley and Billy Bray.

Standing amid the polished splendour of the Ponsanooth Methodist Chapel near Truro, Mr Howarth said: "These chapels are an important part of the rich heritage of Cornwall, not only for their architectural quality but for their religious and social impact. I hope that listing will cause more people to look at and admire these remarkable buildings."

At the opposite end of the scale of opulence, the cob and thatch of the Friends Meeting House at Come-to-Good near Truro has been uprated to Grade I status, the only chapel to be so honoured.

The Rev Dr Stephen Dawes, chairman of the Cornwall Methodist District, said: "There is terrific variety in Methodist chapels. You have some that take 30 or 40 people and are no more than four walls and a roof. Then you have the 1,200 or 1,300-seater chapels, with their galleries and central pulpits. What makes them fascinating is their vernacular nature. Some were literally put up in the evenings by miners quarrying local stone. They were people-built, people-designed and people-friendly."

Dr Dawes said the chapels' design made preaching before a large congregation a daunting experience. "For Methodists the spoken word is the most important thing. Even in the large chapels the farthest pew might be only 70 or 80ft away, thanks to the raised pulpits and galleries. It is like being on stage in a playhouse from Shakespeare's time."

Even with the decline in church and chapel-going there are still 300 Nonconformist chapels open.

April sweetpeas win gold

By ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE heady fragrance of sweetpeas, the more subtle scent of daffodils, and tropical pitcher plants dripping with moisture may seem an unlikely mix, but they were part of a varied spring flower show staged by the Royal Horticultural Society.

It is no mean achievement to put on a large display of sweetpea blooms in April and as a reward Diane Sewell, of Ober, Cambridge, won a gold medal.

Another gold medal went to Hampshire Carnivorous Plants, of Southampton, Hampshire, for a naturalistic display of "insect eaters", including tropical pitcher plants, trumpet pitchers in flower, and the hardy butterwort, *Pinguicula grandiflora*, with purple flowers. Among several displays of daffodils at the show at Westminster, which ended yesterday, the joint exhibit from Brian Duncan of Omagh, Walkers Bulbs, of Spalding, Broadleigh Gardens, of Taunton, and R.A. Scamp, of Falmouth, won a gold medal.

Several outstanding new plants were launched, including *Clematis cartmanii* "Avalanche", from Blackthorn Nursery, of Alresford, Hampshire. The Blackthorn exhibit also showed several new epimedium hybrids raised by Robin White, its proprietor, including "Pink Elf".

Harrogate Ladies' College

Harrogate Ladies' College opened for the Summer Term on Wednesday, April 14. The new Housemistress of the Junior House, Oakdale, Mrs Patricia Fenwick, takes up her appointment this term. The principal events this term include: The Choir will sing Evensong in York Minster on April 26; Choir Valedictory, July 4; UK Junior Mathematical Challenge, April 27; Lincoln House Carnival, May 2; Open Teaching Day, May 3, with BBC Radio Daily Service live broadcast from the College Chapel; HCU Biennial Reunion and Chapel service, May 15; Cheese and Wine Art Exhibition, May 27.

Sports Day will take place on May 28, from 2pm until 4.15pm, followed by the Commemoration Service at 5.30pm in St Wilfrid's Church — Preacher, the Right Rev Dr David Jenkins.

The Parents & Friends of HLC Summer Garden Party will be held on June 6; An Evening at the Races, June 16; Three Peaks attempt over June 19 and 20. Speech Day and Prizegiving in the Royal Hall, July 3 at 2.15pm — Guest Speaker, Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Steel — and the Sixth-Form Ball at the Old Swan Hotel at 7pm.

Sporting events include: North Schools Junior Lacrosse Tournament at Wirral, April 24; Aberdare Cup Tennis at HLC, April 29; Beckett Park Finals, July 6.

Half term is from May 28 after Commemoration to June 6; term finishes at the end of the teaching day on July 7.

The College is pleased to announce the following Scholarships awarded to girls joining the school in September 1999:
At eleven plus: Annabel Eager (Froebelian, Leeds); Natalie Woods (Richmond House, Leeds). At thirteen plus: Tanya Burton (St Martin's School, Nawton, York). At sixteen plus: Alexandra Beamont (Harrogate Grammar School) has been awarded a double music award.

Harrogate Ladies' College is a registered Charity no 529579. Providing quality education for girls since 1893.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.J. Baker and Miss S.H. Johnstone
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs John Baker, of Tavistock, Devon, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Johnstone, of Appleton, Oxfordshire.

Lieutenant J.J.M. Black, Royal Navy, and Miss M.F. Hancock
The engagement is announced between Jamie, only son of Captain John Black, of Uckfield, East Sussex, and Mrs Georgina Black, of Titchfield, Hampshire, and Mary, elder daughter of Mr Richard Hancock, of St Mabyn, Cornwall, and Mrs John Newey, of Ruan Lanihorne, Cornwall.

Mr D. Butterworth and Dr M. Ansley-Watson
The engagement is announced between Damian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Butterworth, of Hill Head, Hampshire, and Michelle, only daughter of Mr and Mrs David Ansley-Watson, also of Hill Head, Hampshire. The marriage will take place in October.

Mr P.E.M. Davison and Miss S.E. Walton
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.C. Davison, of Watford, Hertfordshire, and Sophia, daughter of the late Mr J.D. Walton and of Mrs J.M. Cohen, of London.

Senhor M.C. Fagundes and Miss K.L. Simpson
The engagement is announced between Marcelo, son of the late Dr Alcyone Fagundes and of Dr Léa Fagundes, of Porto Alegre, Brazil, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Simpson, of Barnes, London.

Mr S.E.C. Gordon and Miss A.J. Mackenzie
The engagement is announced between Stuart, only son of the late Mr Douglas Gordon and of Mrs Gordon, of Barnes, and Andrea, younger daughter of the late Mr James Mackenzie and of Mrs Mackenzie, of West Byfleet, Surrey.

Mr R.A. Lade and Miss B.L. Farrelly
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Major and Mrs Alexander Lade, of Bishops Waltham, Hampshire, and Bridget, daughter of Major and Mrs Patrick Farrelly, of Upavon, Wiltshire.

Mr G.S. Molyneux and Miss R.E.R. Deans
The engagement is announced between Gerard Spencer Molyneux, late of Castle Dillon, Co Armagh, and Rosemarrie Elgeta Ruena Deans.

Mr M.R. Paviour and the Hon Lorna Weir
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Brigadier and Mrs Andrew Paviour, of Broughton, Hampshire, and Lorna, daughter of Viscount Weir, of Rodinghead, Ayrshire, and Mrs Brian Johnson, of London and Scansano, Italy.

Mr B.T. Teague and Miss F. Wozniak
The engagement is announced between Ben, only son of Tony and Sylvia Teague, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, and Fiona, eldest daughter of Richard and Denise Wozniak, of Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.

Mr R.L. Zelouf and Miss L.M. Pennicott
The engagement is announced between Raymond, son of Misse and Albert Zelouf, of London, and Lucy, daughter of Sue and John Pennicott, of Melbourne, Australia.

Marriages

Mr C.M. Luft and Miss R.C. Pratt
The marriage took place on April 10, at St Thomas's Church, Sheffield, between Mr Christian Luft, son of Mr and Mrs R. Luft, of Leigh-on-Sea, and Miss Rhiannon Pratt, daughter of Dr and Mrs T.M. Pratt, of Fulwood, Sheffield.

Mr J.C. Stratton and Miss A.S.E. Griffiths
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 10, in St Asaph Cathedral, of Mr Jake Stratton, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Stratton, of Stockton, Wiltshire, to Miss Alison Griffiths, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Griffiths, of Llandyrnog, Denbighshire. The Venerable John Davies officiated and the Dean of St Asaph read the Gospel.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by her sisters, Miss Caroline and Miss Cordelia Griffiths, and by Miss Virginia Robertson, Miss Clare Wenham and Rilla and Ellie Cotton. Mr Thoby Barlow was best man.

A reception was held at Glan-y-Wern and the honeymoon is being spent in Central America.

Mr S.A. Willbourn and Mrs P. Miskelly
The marriage took place on Wednesday, March 31, in Sussex, between Simon Willbourn, eldest son of Dr and Mrs A.H. Willbourn, of Aston, Hertfordshire, and Pearl Miskelly, elder daughter of Mrs Margaret Calderwood and the late Mr John Calderwood, of Coleraine, Co Antrim.

Church news

The Rev Brian Anderson, Rector, St Breoke and Egloshayle in Wadebridge, and Rural Dean of Trigg Minor and Bodmin (Truro), to be Prebendary of St Endellion (same diocese).

The Rev Christopher Collingwood, foromerly Canon Residentiary and Precentor of Guildford Cathedral to be Chaplain, Chigwell School (Chelmsford).

Mr Philip Cunningham, NSM Curate, York St Olave w St Giles, and teacher, Minster School (York), to be Team Vicar, Haxby w Wigginton (same diocese).

The Rev Francis Daborn, Priest-in-Charge, Tibberton w Bolas Magna and Waters Upton, and Local Ministry Adviser (Lichfield), to be Director of Local Ministry and Principal of the Local Ministry Training Course (same diocese).

The Rev Peter Evans, Vicar, Croydon, Woodside St Luke (Southwark), to be Team Vicar, Sanderstead All Saints (same diocese).

Prebendary Tim Gouldstone, Director of Lay Training and Priest-in-Charge, Lamorran and Merther and St Michael Penkevil, and Rural Dean of Powder (Truro), to be Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral, ceasing to be Prebendary of St Endellion.

The Rev Martyn Green, Vicar, Ossett cum Gawthorpe (Wakefield), to be Team Rector, Haxby w Wigginton (York).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Leonhard Euler, mathematician and physicist, Basle, 1707; Sir James Clark Ross, Arctic explorer, London, 1800; Benjamin Jowett, scholar, London, 1817; Henry James, writer, New York, 1843; Stanley Bruce, 1st Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, Prime Minister of Australia 1923-29, Melbourne, 1883; Bessie Smith, "Empress of the Blues", Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1894.

DEATHS: Richard Mulcaster, author, Stanford Rivers, Essex, 1611; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American President 1861-65, assassinated at Ford's Theatre, Washington, 1865; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, Liverpool, 1888; William Thomas Stead, journalist, perished on the *Titanic*, 1912; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, London, 1925; Jean-Paul Sartre, Existentialist, Paris, 1980; Greta Garbo, actress, New York, 1990.

Dr Samuel Johnson published his Dictionary, 1755.

The White Star liner *Titanic* struck an iceberg and sank with the loss of more than 1,500 lives, 1912.

Sir James Barrie donated the copyright fee of his play *Peter Pan* to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, London, 1925.

The population of Malta was awarded the George Cross for gallantry during the Second World War, 1942.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The LORD says: My servant will succeed! He will be given great praise and the highest honours. Many were horrified at what happened to him. But everyone who saw him was more horrified because he suffered until he no longer looked human. Isaiah 52.13-14(CEV).

BIRTHS

ACWORTH - On 9th April to Caroline and Robert, a daughter, Delilah, a sister for Theo and Flynn.

ARCADU - On April 7th 1999 at The Portland Hospital, to Laura and Roberto, a daughter, Mathilda Rose.

AUNGLES - On 9th April, to Kate (née Chadder) and Glenn, the blessing of a son, Aidan Foster Tom, a brother to Harvey.

BRUNSBERG - On April 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Ellen and Ray, a girl, Sarah Cassiopia, a sister and foil for Rebecca.

CHILTON - On 31st March, to Rosemary (née Golding) and Christopher, a daughter, Imogen Sarah Jane, a sister for Jasmine Rebecca Anne.

DAVISON - On April 8th, to Joanna (née Salmon) and Alex, a daughter, Laura Kathryn, a beautiful sister for Sophie.

DEL AZAR - On April 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Helen and Juan, a daughter, Elisa Helen, a sister for Juan Lucas and Matias.

DICKSON - Graham and Nina (née Davis) are proud to announce the birth of Joshua James Albert on 12th April at 11.26am, 8lbs 15 ozs.

EWBANK - On April 7th, York District Hospital, to Nichola (née Serle) and Simon, a precious son, Harry Simon.

JACKSON MAYHEW - On March 22nd in Chile, to Louisa (née Mayhew) and John, a daughter, Duilia Lily.

LEE - On April 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Margo (née McCauley) and Fitzhugh, a daughter, Hayley, a sister for Fitzie.

LEONARD - On 6th April to Antigone (née Dean) and Tony, a son Ivo Joseph Tressidder.

NIELSEN - On April 11th, to Caroline (née Malizia) and Poul, a beautiful daughter, Millicent Jade Bjerg.

PAGONIS - On 12th April in Cambridge, to Kathryn and Constantine, a daughter, Ariadne Kathryn.

BIRTHS

PAYNTER - Helen (née Batchelor) and Stephen are delighted to announce the arrival of a beautiful daughter, Susanna Joy, on 2nd March 1999.

PICALEK - On April 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Conny and Michael, a daughter, Selina Tamara, a sister for Kevin.

READ - On April 10th, 1999, to Clare (née Attenborough) and Nick, a son (Henry Edward Gregory), a brother for Hugo.

WILSON - On April 3rd at The Homerton Hospital to Tracy (née Lewis) and Michael, the gift of a beautiful baby boy, Oscar Paschal.

DEATHS

ARCHER - Robin on 11th April peacefully in a nursing home aged 83. Much loved husband to his late wife Cherrie and his sons Neville and Colin and his seven grandchildren, together with all his relatives and friends. The funeral service will be held on Monday 19th April in The West Chapel, Putney Vale Crematorium, London SW15 at 12.15, family flowers only.

BARKER - (Henry) Michael on April 10th 1999, suddenly while fishing, aged 76. Dearly loved husband of Marianne; loving father of Romilly, Mallory and Lulu and devoted grandfather of May, Thomas, Hal, Charlie and Alice. Funeral at Chelsea Old Church on Thursday 22nd April 1999 at 11 am. Family flowers only. If desired, donations to The Royal British Legion or The Royal Green Jackets Museum may be sent c/o J.H. Kenyon, Funeral Directors, 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8 6LA.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

DEATHS

BROCK - Cecil Patrick, stage, film and television actor, died peacefully at Mount Vernon Hospital on 12th April 1999 following a short illness. Born Dublin 1915 and long time resident of Chelsea, he had lived since 1997, very contentedly, at Denville Hall, Northwood. Funeral Service at Breakspear Crematorium on Tuesday 20th April at 2.30 pm (East Chapel). Donations if desired to Denville Hall c/o Bradley & Jones, 7 Love Lane, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3EE 0181 866 0088.

CASTLE - Kathleen Mary peacefully on 6th April, beloved wife of the late George Castle, mother of Rosemary and Steven and grandmother of Richard, William, Oliver and Rupert. Cremation at Altrincham Crematorium at 2.30 pm on Friday 16th April. No flowers.

CHESWORTH - Barbara Joan on April 9th 1999 aged 49, beloved wife of Graham and mother of David and Helen. Private cremation followed by Thanksgiving Service at which all are welcome at St Mary's Church, Hayes, Bromley, Kent on Thursday 22nd April at 1 pm. Please family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research Campaign c/o F.A. Albin & Sons, Arthur Stanley House, 52 Culling Road, SE16 2TN.

CHILTON - (Judith) Clare died peacefully on Sunday April 11th. Much loved wife of Simon and very dear mother of Jessica, Samantha and Nicola. Dearest daughter of Gwenllian and the late Sir Meredith Whittaker and sister to Paul. She will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all her family and friends. A Thanksgiving Service will be held on Wednesday April 21st at 2.00pm at St Leonard's Church, Chesham Bois. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Bruce Trust, PO Box 21, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 9YY. Enquiries to H C Grimstead Ltd. 01494 434393.

CLEAVER - John Anthony Sebastian, Director of the British Council Aden, Yemen, beloved son of Robert Anthony and Jacqueline Cleaver of Alfreton, Derbyshire, died at home on 29th March 1999 aged 54. Thanksgiving Service at the Parish Church, Church Street, Alfreton, on Thursday 6th May at 2.30pm. No flowers. Donations to local cancer research c/o Mrs J.A. McCane Whitney.

COLCHESTER - Ruth Marjorie (née Edmundson) peacefully on 10th April at Rush Court Nursing Home, Wallingford. Much loved wife of the late Cecil Francis, mother of Anne and Stephen, grandmother of James, Alexander, Harry and Isobel. Funeral Service at St Mary the Virgin Iffley, Oxford at 12 noon on Thursday 22nd April. Family flowers only. Enquiries and donations if desired to the International Red Cross c/o Howard Chadwick Funeral Service. Tel 01491 825222.

CRAWFURD - Kenneth. Beloved husband of Mary and father of Raymond, Julian and Charles. Died peacefully at home on April 8th, aged 94. Private cremation followed by Memorial Service at St.Giles' Church, Stoke Poges on Friday April 16th at 11.30, and afterwards at Uplands. Family flowers only. Donations to the National Society for Epilepsy, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks.

DONOVAN - David Patrick died on 9th April 1999 after a long and determined fight against cancer. A loving and much loved father of Kate and Clare, daughters of Sally, dearly loved son of Pat and Phyl and loving companion to Kirstie. He faced the illness with outstanding strength, courage, faith and dignity. All his friends are invited to a Requiem Mass to celebrate his life at The Church of St Francis De Sales, 16 Wellington Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex at 2.15 pm on Monday 19th April, which will be followed by a private family cremation. No flowers please, donations to a Cancer Research/ Blind Charity of the Givers choice.

FLEET - Edgar aged 67 years, died very suddenly on Saturday 10th April 1999. Much loved by Suzanne, his son Matthew and daughter-in-law Penny and grandchildren Emily and Molly, he will be sadly missed by all his friends and family. Requiem at Holy Redeemer Church, Cheyne Row, Chelsea at 10.30 am on Friday 23rd April 1999. Private crematorium committal.

FRANCE - On 11th April 1999, at home in Edinburgh, Anne Bruce (née Headridge), darling wife of Gerry, much loved mother of Nicola and mother-in-law of Donald and dear Granna of Julian and Rosie. At her own request a private funeral has already taken place.

GRIFFITHS - M.A. On Friday 2nd April 1999 at Swansea, South Wales, Colin Pitchford Griffiths. Funeral has taken place.

GUMMER - Revd Canon Selwyn, peacefully on April 13th in Suffolk aged 91, husband of the late Sybille Gummer and much loved father and grandfather. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Winston, Suffolk at 1 pm on Saturday April 24th. R.I.P.

HOLLENDEN - Gordon, 3rd Baron; died peacefully in hospital following a short illness. Beloved husband of Sonja, loving father and grandfather. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Mary's Church, Leigh on Wednesday 21st April at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to D.G.A.A. or Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o Francis Chappell & Sons, 27 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1AR.

KAYE - Ruth née Edenborough peacefully in Petworth on 13th April aged 83. Much loved wife of the late George Kaye. Stepmother and friend of Frank Kaye and Pat Kettle. Funeral at the Downs Crematorium, Brighton at 3 pm on Friday 23rd April. Family flowers. Donations if desired to M.I.N.D. via Brydens, Tillington, West Sussex, 01798 342174.

KENNEDY - Gillian Mary of Rotherwick, Hampshire, died peacefully at Hampshire Clinic on 8th April 1999. Much loved wife of Alfred and loving mother of Tiffany and Zoë. Funeral to take place at Mattingley Church, Hampshire on 16th April 1999 at 11 am. Enquiries to Alexander & Dry, (01256) 844663.

LEIGHTON - Alan Frederick Charles, beloved husband and best friend of Audrey, died peacefully on 11th April. He faced his illness with stoicism, and his strength and generosity of spirit was with him until the end. He will be greatly missed. Funeral Service will be held at St John's Parish Church, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire on Monday 19th April at 12 noon. Flowers to George Parker & Sons, 113 Reading Road, Yateley, Hampshire.

MARTIN - On 13th April, peacefully, Richard Carver, aged 65. Loving husband of Sally, father of Polly and Toby. Cremation on Tuesday 20th April at 11 am at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations to Salvation Army, c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1SD.

MORGAN - Dr Dennis Harry Morgan, Consultant Psychiatrist, suddenly on 11th April 1999. Much loved by all who knew him. Loving husband of Jackie, father to Jane, Stephen Harry, Helen and David and much loved son-in-law of Ada. Service to take place at St Margarets Church, Kings Lynn on Tuesday April 20th at 11.00am followed by a private family cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations in aid of St Margarets Organ Fund and The Norfolk Ornithologist Association. All enquiries to R H Fayers and Son Funeral Directors, 42-43 Railway Road, Kings Lynn. 01553 691641.

NEAVES - (Dr Dolan). Josephine passed away peacefully in Good Hope Hospital on the morning of 10th April. She is dearly missed by all her family and especially by her husband Michael, their children Catherine, Michael, Elizabeth and Helen and grandchildren Becky, Clare and Matthew. As Dr Dolan she practiced in Sutton Coldfield for over 30 years and was highly regarded by everyone. A Requiem Mass will be held at Holy Cross, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, on Wednesday 21st April at 12 noon followed by burial at Sutton Cemetery. If wished donations to "CCU Trust Fund" Good Hope NHS Trust, Rectory Road, B75 2RR.

NOBLE - Irene, suddenly at home on 1st April 1999. Missed by family and friends. Funeral Service at the Downs Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton on Monday 19th April at 3.00pm. Flowers may be sent to W. A. Stringer and Son, 12 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL. Tel 01273 603806.

POPE - Charles Edwin died suddenly on 11th April at Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Rest In Peace.

REASON - Philip Martyn, passed away peacefully on 13th April 1999, aged 92 years. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium on Wednesday 21st April at 2pm. Flowers are welcome and may be sent to A.B. Walker & Son Ltd., 36 Eldon Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 4DL.

RENNIE - John (Jack) Alastair aged 80 peacefully on April 12th. Much loved husband of Brenda, adored father of Ken, Linda and Nick and dear friend to many. Funeral private. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at The Temple Church, EC4, on Thursday May 20th at 5 pm. No flowers but donations if desired to HAPA, Pryors Bank, Bishop's Park, SW6 3LA.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

SAFFERY - John Robert of Moseley, Birmingham died suddenly on April 5th 1999 while on holiday in Scotland. Funeral at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Birmingham on Wednesday April 21st at 11.00am followed by a service of thanksgiving at Edgbaston Old Church at 12 noon. Flowers welcome or donations to the Braemar Mountain Rescue Association c/o Graham MacDonald, School House, Monaltrie, Ballater, Scotland.

SHOWELL - Benjamin Charles Dugard aged 23 years died tragically and suddenly on Saturday April 10th 1999. Funeral Service at the Stoke Gabriel Parish Church, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, Devon on Tuesday April 20th at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The Primrose Breast Care Appeal (Derriford Hospital Plymouth) or Special Trustees U.B.H. Trust Fund Acc No. 04118 (Paediatric Neurosurgery) may be sent to Maunders Funeral Service, 27 Well Street, Paignton, Devon, tel: (01803) 556581.

SOLOMONS - Alec, aged 81, died peacefully on 13th April 1999 after a short illness in Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford. Dearly beloved husband of Zena and devoted father of Penny and Paul and loving grandfather of Alex and Leo. He will be greatly missed by his son-in-law Peter, family and many friends. Funeral service at Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, Willesden, London Friday 16th April at 3.45pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research, c/o Funeral Directors H.J. Bent & Co., 343 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 6HA. A Memorial Service will be arranged later.

STEWART - John R. M.B.E., of Rivermill, London died peacefully at home on April 8th 1999. Much loved father of Jean and John, grandfather of Polly and Lucy. Private family cremation. Memorial Service to be announced soon. Donations if wished to Cancer Research. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon. tel: 0171 834 4624.

TIARKS - Moira, died tragically 13th April 1999. Dearly loved by Alex, children and grandchildren. Funeral at St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham, Tuesday 20th April at 2:15 pm. No flowers please, donations to The Friends of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London SW10.

WHITE - Gladys Hebe Katharine, beloved wife of Charles White. Much loved mother and grandmother. Died peacefully at St Marks Hospital, Maidenhead, Berkshire on Monday 12th April 1999. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Donations (Alzheimers Disease Society) and enquiries to F.G. Pymm Funeral Director, tel: (01628) 623822.

WILLIAMSON - On April 11th 1999, very peacefully at his home in Kelsale, Suffolk, Bill (late of Calcutta). Dearest husband of Sylvia. Funeral Service at Ipswich Crematorium West Chapel on Thursday April 22nd at 2 pm. No flowers, donations if desired made payable to British Heart Foundation, c/o Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham, IP17 1DJ.

WITHINGTON - On April 9th 1999 peacefully in Highgate after a short illness, Morag (née Morison), wife of the late Alan Withington, mother of John and Marsden, grandmother of James, Angus, Charles and Andrew. Funeral Service at the United Reformed Church, Pond Square, Highgate at 2 pm on Wednesday April 21st, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to C.A.R.E. Walberton c/o Leverton & Sons Ltd., 1 Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green, N2 9HG.

WOODROFFE - Elizabeth Anne (née D'Arcy) peacefully on 11th April 1999. Adored wife of Ivan (Woody). Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church, Calne, Wiltshire at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 21st April.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BAILEY - A Memorial Service for the life and work of Robin Bailey will be held at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, on Thursday 6th May at 3pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HENNESSY - In loving memory of Eoghan, our darling son and brother, who died on 15th April eight years ago. "And with the morn those angel faces smile, Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile." Ellis, John, Aisling and Siofra.

OBITUARIES

FRANK TUOHY

Frank Tuohy, writer, died in hospital in Shepton Mallet on April 11 aged 73. He was born on May 2, 1925.

Although his creative output was relatively small in volume — as a novelist he was even more reticent than his admired E. M. Forster — Frank Tuohy came to occupy a position in contemporary English fiction which he made completely his own.

This had something to do with the fact that he was extraordinarily well travelled — in the sense that he had lived and worked in several widely differing countries and had absorbed their cultures and languages. But he did not deploy these experiences, as so many of his contemporaries were tempted to do, merely to create exotic settings for his stories. The fumbling attempts by the representatives of different civilisations to understand each other were used by him not so much to make cultural comparisons as to illustrate the fraught business of human communication on any level and in any milieu.

Thus, the visit of a well-heeled English woman to her poverty-stricken married sister in postwar Poland inhabits the same psychological terrain as a first dinner date whose participants strive desperately not to make contact with each others' knees under the table. A Japanese academic finding herself groped by a much admired English poet she has come to visit suffers agonies of embarrassment which are little different in kind from those of a man and woman whose first outing to the cinema exposes them to explicit sex scenes, an experience which puts intolerable strains on their nascent relationship.

Tuohy had a penetrating eye for social mores. In his English stories he unsparingly depicted the inhabitants of enclaves of jealously-preserved gentility. Wealthy idlers and their tendency to impose on the less fortunate were anathema to him. But even here he was never merely propagandist. Snobs and county brutes could suffer their embarrassments too. Thus, the colonel's fresh-faced, horsey daughter takes up with a low-life, doctrinaire lesbian; the son and brightest hope of the family returns home from travels abroad accompanied by a malodorous and hairy Balkan peasant.

Tuohy wrote three novels, all of which had a warmer critical than commercial reception. But it is in the short story that he is at his best. *The Collected Stories of Frank Tuohy* (1984), which summarised the best of several earlier volumes, distilled his characteristic strengths and preoccupations.

John Francis Tuohy was born in Sussex, the son of a doctor. He was educated at Stowe, but a congenital heart defect (corrected by surgery in 1960) ruled him out for military service and he went straight to Cambridge where he read English and philosophy.

In the cheerless atmosphere of postwar Britain he decided to go abroad, and in 1950, after a year, 1947-48, as a lecturer in Finland at the University of Turku, he set off for South America where he found himself a lucrative job as Professor of English language and literature at São Paulo University.



Tuohy: feeling for the discomfort in human relationships

He also wrote, and his first two novels both have Brazil as their milieu.

The Animal Game, which appeared in 1957, had a young English protagonist working in São Paulo where he becomes involved in a relationship with a wealthy and beautiful, but corrupt, Brazilian girl. In a study of moneyed young people consumed by selfish sexual passion, Tuohy rescued his hero before he, too, succumbed.

His second novel, *The Warm Nights of January* (1960), occupied similar sexual terrain, with the Brazilian background evoked with great skill as the *mise-en-scène* for a tangled affair, this time between an expatriate French artist and her black Brazilian lover. By this time Tuohy himself had moved on from Brazil, where he had spent six years. From 1958 he spent two years teaching in Poland, on the academic staff of the Jagiellonian University of Krakow.

This provided him with the setting for his third novel *The Ice Saints* (1964). In it, a well-to-do young Englishwoman makes the trip to Poland in the aftermath of the Stalinist era to tell her sister, who is married to a Pole, that their son has come into a legacy. But her notion that the money shall be used to "rescue" her nephew from what she regards as the poverty of the Polish way of life is defeated by what the reader eventually perceives as the moral superiority of her sister and brother-in-law. This was an impressive performance in which the horrors of Polish life under communism were in no way ameliorated. Tuohy achieved a subtle shift from initial sympathy with the well-meaning and perplexed visitor to a final recognition of her essential shallowness. The novel won Tuohy the James Tait Black Memorial Prize.

Meanwhile, Tuohy was on the move again. From 1964 to 1967 he was a visiting professor at Waseda University in Tokyo, and he was to return to Japan as visiting professor at Tokyo's Rikkyo University from 1983 to 1989. In between these Far East sojourns he was writer-in-residence and visiting professor at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, in 1970-71, 1976 and 1980.

Tuohy published his first volume of short stories, *The Admiral and the Nuns* in 1962, although he had already won the Katherine Mansfield-Menton short story prize in 1960. He was to continue to write short stories for some time after he had fallen silent as a novelist. In this first volume, which employed both his Brazilian and Polish experiences, he brilliantly yet compassionately explored human lives struggling in webs of deceit and sexual folly they have woven for themselves.

It was succeeded by *Fingers in the Door* (1970) and *Live Bait and Other Stories* (1979). In *Fingers in the Door* Tuohy concentrated his scrutiny largely on the concerns of the English middle classes. It was generally adjudged to be less interesting than its predecessor volume, although it won the E. M. Forster Memorial Award. In *Live Bait* he widened his horizons once again, to produce a collection of insight and subtlety. Tuohy also wrote a study *Portugal* (1970) and a biography *Yeats* (1976), which was praised for its succinctness in an era when literary biographies were all too frequently becoming affairs of a thousand pages.

After his travels Tuohy settled in Somerset, at Yarlington, near Wincanton, where he continued to write short stories and book reviews. He was unmarried.

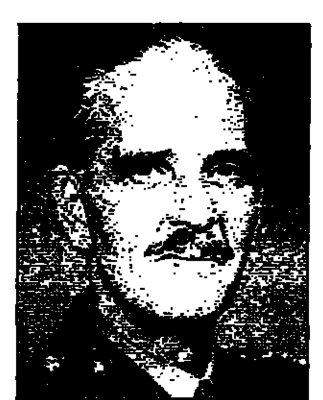
BRIGADIER WILFRED PONSONBY

Brigadier Wilfred Ponsonby, OBE, soldier and conjuror, died on March 16 aged 93. He was born in Canada on July 10, 1905.

MEMBERSHIP of the Magic Circle has, perhaps, never been thought an asset in military circles. But Wilfred Ponsonby's expertise in this department was a great help in keeping up the spirits of the inmates of Spangenberg prisoner-of-war camp during the long dreary years of captivity.

Ponsonby was among those who were unlucky enough not to be evacuated from Dunkirk. When the Blitzkrieg began on May 10, 1940, he and his signal squadron were sent to join the 51st (Highland) Division, which was separated from the rest of the British Expeditionary Force on the right of the French line in a position to the southeast of Luxembourg.

So when the retreat to the sea began, the division and Ponsonby's signals unit had much further to go than the bulk of Lord Gort's force. It was a race they lost, arriving at St Valéry en Caux, southwest of Dieppe, in the second week of June with the Germans in hot pursuit. With the enemy commanding the heights around the town and the Navy hampered by bad weather, hopes of evacuation soon faded and the division



was compelled to surrender.

From the earliest days of his captivity, Ponsonby was on the lookout for ways of escaping. Within the first 24 hours he and a fellow officer had given their captors the slip and spent several days at liberty on the French coast trying to find a boat. After being rounded up they were taken to Germany, where he made several more attempts to escape. The most successful of these was from the Obermassfeld prison hospital, where he and another friend had had themselves sent on the pretext of being ill. On that occasion they simply walked out, and they were halfway to the Swiss frontier before being recaptured.

When he was not escaping, Ponsonby amused his fellow inmates with conjuring and by organising theatricals, another passion of his. These activities had an inestimable effect in keeping spirits up, and at the end of the war Ponsonby was, unusually, appointed OBE for his work in the camps.

Wilfred Ponsonby was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the son of a Royal Engineers officer and a Canadian mother. From Shrewsbury School he went to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from where he joined the newly-formed Royal Signals.

An excellent rider, he had a spell in India with a cavalry brigade in the 1930s and when war came in 1940 found himself in command of a signals squadron. He was lucky enough not to have to spend the entire war in captivity. Never robust in appearance, he managed to convince his captors that he was suffering from tuberculosis, and in 1943 he was repatriated via Sweden.

Forbidden by the repatriation rules to return to a combat unit, he spent the rest of the war on the staff, at first on communications for the Normandy invasion and towards the end of the war on signals for the relief of Norway, in Scottish Command. After the war, and spells in Sudan and at Catterick, he was chosen in 1949 to represent Britain in telecommunications in the Western Union Defence Organisation, which was taken over by Eisenhower when Nato was formed. At the end of this career he returned to the pan-European sphere as chairman of the European Military Communications Co-ordination Committee, retiring from the Army in 1957.

He next worked for two years as technical staff officer to the Ministry of Supply, where he was involved in monitoring the progess of the first Soviet Sputniks. Retiring finally in 1959, he was able to devote more time to his conjuring — though while still in the Army he had done a show for BBC television.

Settling in Yorkshire, he became senior steward of Catterick racecourse, and was a keen member of the Leyburn amateur dramatic society. In 1969 he participated in a BBC film about military life from 1916 to 1926, entitled *Days of Hope*. The film, directed by Ken Loach, traced the lives of two brothers, one of whom volunteered while the other became a conscientious objector. Ponsonby played a recruiting officer.

His first wife, Chris, died in 1974 after a 19-year battle against multiple sclerosis. In 1976 he married an old friend, Pat Taylor. He is survived by her and by three sons and by three daughters from his first marriage.

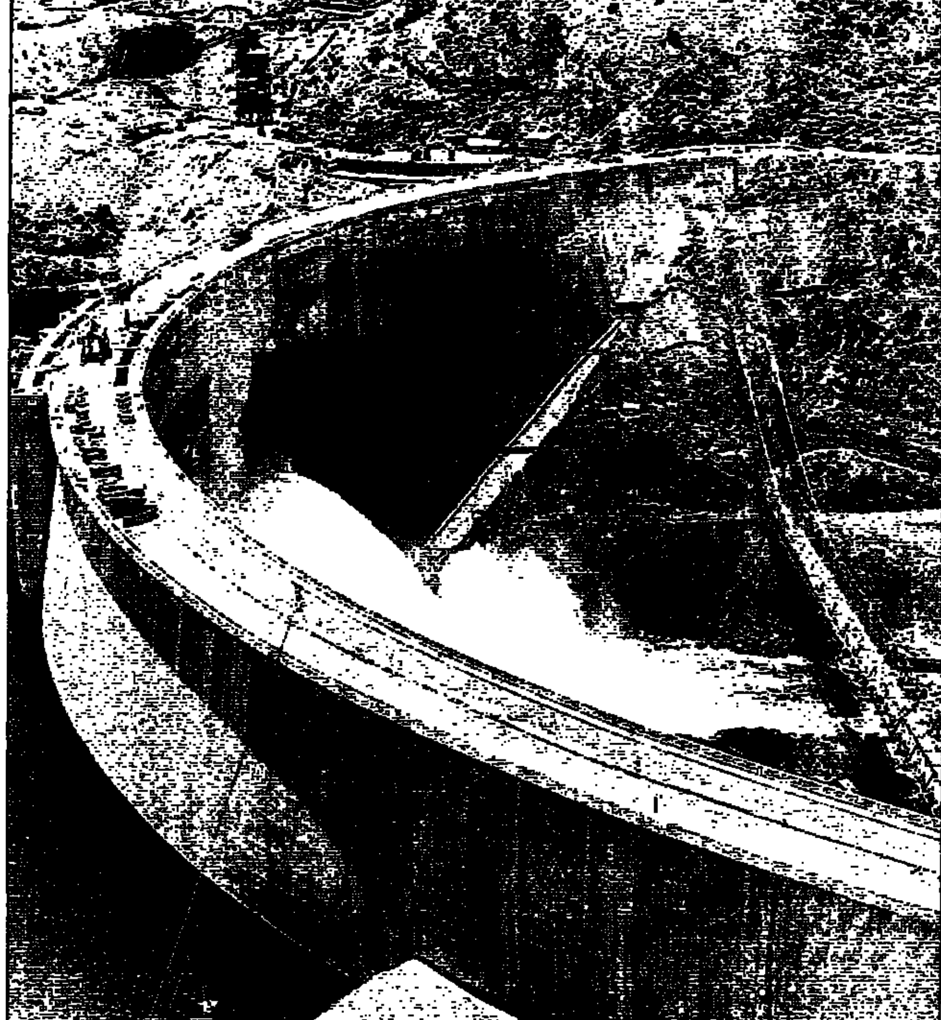
SIR ANGUS PATON



Sir Angus Paton, CMG, FRS, civil engineer, died in St Helier, Jersey, on April 7 aged 93. He was born on May 10, 1905.

ONE of the very few civil engineers ever to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, Angus Paton was, as senior partner of Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners, responsible for the design and building of some of the world's largest hydroelectric and irrigation projects. Chief among these were the massive Owen Falls hydroelectric scheme in Uganda, whose construction took from 1947 to 1954, and the Kariba hydroelectric scheme in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia).

The building of the mighty Kariba Dam, which created a 20,000 square mile lake on the borders of Zambia and Rhodesia, occupied most of Paton's waking hours in the years 1955 to 1960 when it was under construction. He always regarded it as the highlight of his career.



The Kariba Dam on the Zambesi River nearing completion in December 1959

The peculiarities of the terrain, which was subject to subsidence and shifting, and the seasonal floods on the Zambesi River made it a particularly challenging project. When completed, the dam, a double curvature mass concrete arch, was 420ft high and 2,034ft long at its crest, with a maximum thickness of 80ft. Its six flood gates can pass 9,400 cubic metres of water per second and the associated power station generates 666 megawatts.

But Paton was used to challenges not only of the technical sort, but from the often volatile political situations in many of the locations in which he worked. For example, while working on the colossal Indus Basin project on the borders of India and Pakistan in the 1960s he found work continually interrupted by exchanges of fire between the combatants in a war between the two countries which was raging in the region.

Thomas Angus Lyall Paton was born in Jersey, spent some of his childhood in France and was educated at Cheltenham College and University College London, where he took a degree in civil engineering. In 1925 he joined as a pupil Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners, the firm of consulting engineers which had been founded by his uncle. After gaining experience in Britain, Canada, Burma and Turkey on harbour works, hydroelectric schemes and industrial development schemes, he was taken into partnership in 1938. He became senior partner in 1955.

By the time he came to be involved in the vast Third World irrigation schemes of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s Paton had already built the Guinness brewery at Park Royal, London, in 1934; trading estates in Wales and Cumbria; a hydroelectric scheme in Scotland; a steelworks in Turkey; a harbour in Syria; and, during the war, underground aircraft assembly plants, as well as supervising the building of the Mulberry Harbours.

From 1947 the Sir Alexander Gibb partnership was involved in the construction of the Owen Falls dam scheme to control the White Nile below Lake Victoria and to provide long-term storage in the lake itself. Nearly 100ft high and 2,739ft long, the dam contains six sluice gates, which can pass 1,350 cubic metres per second and the power station turbines generate 180 megawatts.

From 1955, having succeeded to the senior partnership of the firm on the sudden death of Alexander Gibb's son Alastair, Paton and Gibb were involved, in partnership with a French dam designer, on their magnum opus, the Kariba Dam. The immense reputation that they gained from this led to their being called in by the World Bank as consultants to the Indus project, which was designed to distribute the flows of the river and its tributaries in accordance with the Indus Water Treaty which had been signed by India and Pakistan. This involved the construction of two large earth dams with power generation capacity of 2,100 megawatts and 800 megawatts respectively, as well as six river barrages controlling some 400 miles of canals.

Paton retired from Alexander Gibb in 1977 but remained in close working touch as senior consultant until 1984. The firm (now simply Gibb) continued to be associated with both the Owen Falls and Kariba schemes, inspecting, refurbishing and uprating both projects. Gibb is currently involved in increasing the Kariba's generating capacity to 750 megawatts. In 1978 it also carried out a feasibility study for a second, 60 megawatt, power station at Owen Falls.

Outside the firm Paton was much involved in the affairs of the civil engineering profession. He was President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 1970-71, and was a founding fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering which, in 1992, became the Royal Academy of Engineering. In 1986 he made an endowment to the academy which provides for an annual Sir Angus Paton Bursary for research students in engineering.

Paton was appointed CMG in 1960 and knighted in 1973. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1969.

He married, in 1932, Eleanor Joan Delmé Murray. She died in 1964 and he is survived by their two sons and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

April 15, 1812

The siege and capture of Badajoz in the Peninsular War (1809-14) led, in July, to Wellington's victory at Salamanca — one which finally ended French domination of Spain.

SIEGE OF BADAJOZ

WAR DEPARTMENT, DOWNING STREET, April 14, 1812

A DISPATCH, of which the following is an extract, has been this day received at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by General the Earl of Wellington, dated Camp before Badajoz, March 27, 1812:

The operations of the siege of Badajoz have continued since I addressed you on the 20th, notwithstanding the badness of the weather, till the 25th instant. On that day we opened our fire from 28 pieces of ordnance in six batteries, in the first parallel, two of which were intended to fire upon the outwork called La Picurina, and the other four to enfilade or destroy the defences of the fort on the side attacked. I directed Major-General Kempt, who commanded in the trenches on that afternoon, to attack La Picurina by storm after it was dark that night, which service he effected in the most judicious and gallant manner.

The attack was made by five hundred men of the 3d division, formed into three detachments; the right under the command of Major Shaw, of the 74th; the centre under the [illegible] regiment. The communication between the outwork and the body of the place, was entered on its right and left by the right and left detachments, each consisting of 200 men; half of each of which detachments protected the attack from the fort, while the others attacked the work in its gorge.

It was first entered, however, by the centre detachment of 100 men, under the command of the Hon. Captain Powys, of the 83rd regiment, who escaladed the work at the [illegible] detachment which attacked the work by the gorge had the most serious difficulties to contend with, as it was closed by not less than three rows of strong pallisades, defended by musketry, and a place of arms for the garrison, musket proof, and loop-holed throughout. When the attack upon the salient angle, however, succeeded, the whole got into the work.

The enemy's garrison in the outwork consisted of 250 men, with 7 pieces of artillery, under the command of Colonel Gaspard Thiery, of the Etat Major of the Army of the South; but very few, if any, escaped. The Colonel, three other Officers, and 86 men, have been taken prisoners, and the remainder were either killed by the fire of our troops, or drowned in the inundation of the river Rivellas. The enemy made a sortie from the ravelin, called St Roque, either with a view to recover La Picurina, or to protect the retreat of the garrison; but they were immediately driven in by the detachments stationed in the communication, to protect the attack.

Major-General Kempt mentions in high terms, in his report, the cool and persevering gallantry of the officers and troops; of which, indeed, the strength of the work which they carried, affords the best proof.

We thus established ourselves in La [illegible]

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

PRECEPT INTEGRATED DESIGN & MARKETING LIMITED
Registered number: 02159008. Trading name: Precept IDM. Nature of Business: Advertising. Trade classification: 38. Date of appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 6 April 1999. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): Euro Sales Finance plc. Raymond Hocking & David Harry Gilbert/ Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder no(s): 2322/01 & 2376/01). Address 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE NO. 1543 OF 1999 CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF MARSHALLS FINANCE LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 7th April 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for (a) the sanctioning by the Court of a Scheme of Arrangement considered at a meeting of the holders of the Company's Ordinary Shares held on 29th March 1999 pursuant to an Order of the Court dated 5th March 1999 and (b) the confirmation by the Court of the reductions of the capital from £46,598,517.60 and Yen 1,200,000,000 to £25,964,517.60 and Yen 316,974,000 and the cancellation of the share premium account and capital redemption reserve respectively.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court judge at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on 26th April 1999.
ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the sanctioning by the Court of the Scheme of Arrangement and subsequently, the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A COPY of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of a regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 15th day of April 1999
NORTON ROSE
Kempson House, P.O Box 570, Camomile Street, EC3A 7AN
Tel: 0171 283 6000
Fax: 0171 283 6500
Ref: CCP/2295226
Solicitors for the Company
N.B. This notice is a corrected version of the notice published in yesterday's edition of The Times. Sub-paragraph (b) of the notice should read: 'the confirmation by the Court of the reductions of the capital from £46,598,517.60 and Yen 1,200,000,000 to £25,964,517.60 and Yen 316,974,000 and the cancellation [illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE SOLVERA PLC (IN ADMINISTRATION) THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at the offices of Begbies Traynor, 6 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5BP on 29 April 1999 at 11.30am to consider my proposals under Section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a creditors' committee pursuant to Section 26 of the Insolvency Act 1986. Any member of the company who requires a copy of the Administrator's proposals may write to the Administrator's office. C/O Begbies Traynor, Elliot House, 151 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3BP. A proxy form should be completed and returned to me by the date of the meeting, if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented. In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give to me, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of you claim. R Robinson, Joint Administrator. 12 April 1999.

CHARLES G MITCHELL
CHARLES G MITCHELL (SCOTLAND)
(BOTH FORMERLY TRADING AS MITCHELLS SELF DRIVE)
CHARLES G MITCHELL (ENGLAND)
(ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
We, Graham Ritchie and John Charles Jeffrey Reedman, of Ten George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2DZ HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that on 24 March 1999 we were appointed Joint Liquidators of each of the above-named Companies by Written Resolution of the Members.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of each Company are required to send full details, in writing, of any claim against the Company to Graham Ritchie, Ten George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2DZ by 31 May 1999.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Joint Liquidator intend to make a final return to creditors who have submitted valid claims by 31 May 1999 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. The Joint Liquidators have been appointed for the purpose of a solvent restructuring of the Companies and all known creditors of the Companies have been or will be paid in full, but if any persons consider they have claims against any Company they should send in full details forthwith.
The business know as Mitchells Self Drive and the trading name 'Mitchells Self Drive' were sold to Enterprise Rent-A-Car UK Limited on 9 November 1998. The continuing business operations are unaffected by the above voluntary liquidations. Any claims against Mitchells Self Drive which arose prior to, or which otherwise relate to the period up to, 9 November 1998 should be forwarded to Graham Ritchie at the above address.
Graham Ritchie
Joint Liquidator
Ernst & Young
Ten George Street

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Bombs hit refugee convoy

■ Nato began an urgent investigation last night after its bombers were accused of hitting a convoy of Albanian refugees, killing 75 people.

Nato admitted that it had attacked the road where the refugees were supposed to be travelling, but insisted it had targeted military vehicles. It promised careful analysis of its cockpit video of its attack........ **Reports, pages 1, 13-16**

Blair's daughter in mid-air drama

■ Tony Blair's 11-year-old daughter Kathryn was one of the 235 passengers aboard a jumbo jet that hit violent turbulence at 33,000 feet. As the plane fell for 30 seconds on the approach to Changi in Singapore, passengers were sent flying across the cabin. One person was smashed through the ceiling of the cabin by the force of the turbulence........ **Page 1, 3**

Airbag alarm

Car manufacturers were last night under pressure to warn motorists of the potential dangers of airbags after the findings of an inquest into the death of a middle-aged woman........ **Page 2**

Guildford murder

A 17-year-old girl murdered during a birthday celebration in Guildford on Monday night was a top student at the £15,000 a year Millfield School in Somerset, police said........ **Page 3**

Purists pan pedalo

The graceful art of punting down the Cherwell is under threat from a new breed of pedalo, identical in shape to a punt, but lacking the pole........ Page 5

Police recruiting push

Police must recruit an extra 8,000 black and Asian officers within the next ten years and make forces represent their communities, says Jack Straw........ **Page 6**

British pride retained

The sense of being British is alive and well, and has not been damaged by the creation of Scottish and Welsh assemblies, according to a new poll........ **Page 7**

New Pinochet row

Supporters and opponents of General Augusto Pinochet were locked in a row over new charges sent by Spain to Britain to bolster the extradition case........ **Page 8**

Not-so-cool Britannia

David Bailey, the photographer and epitome of 1960s cool, poured a bucket of icy water on the idea of "Cool Britannia"........ **Page 9**

Bees carry GM crops

The government is to review guidelines on the isolation of genetically modified crops after a study found that bees could carry pollen four kilometres from test sites........ **Page 10**

Historic train returns

The Flying Scotsman, the first train to travel at more than 100mph, will return to the railways this summer after a £1 million restoration........ **Page 11**

Starr rejects his job

Kenneth Starr, President Clinton's tormentor, said that there should be no more independent prosecutors........ **Page 17**

Asia safety fears

Pakistan's successful test-firing of its Ghauri-II missile, in response to a similar test by India last Sunday, has raised fears in China and elsewhere around the Pacific Rim of a deterioration of security in South Asia........ **Page 18**

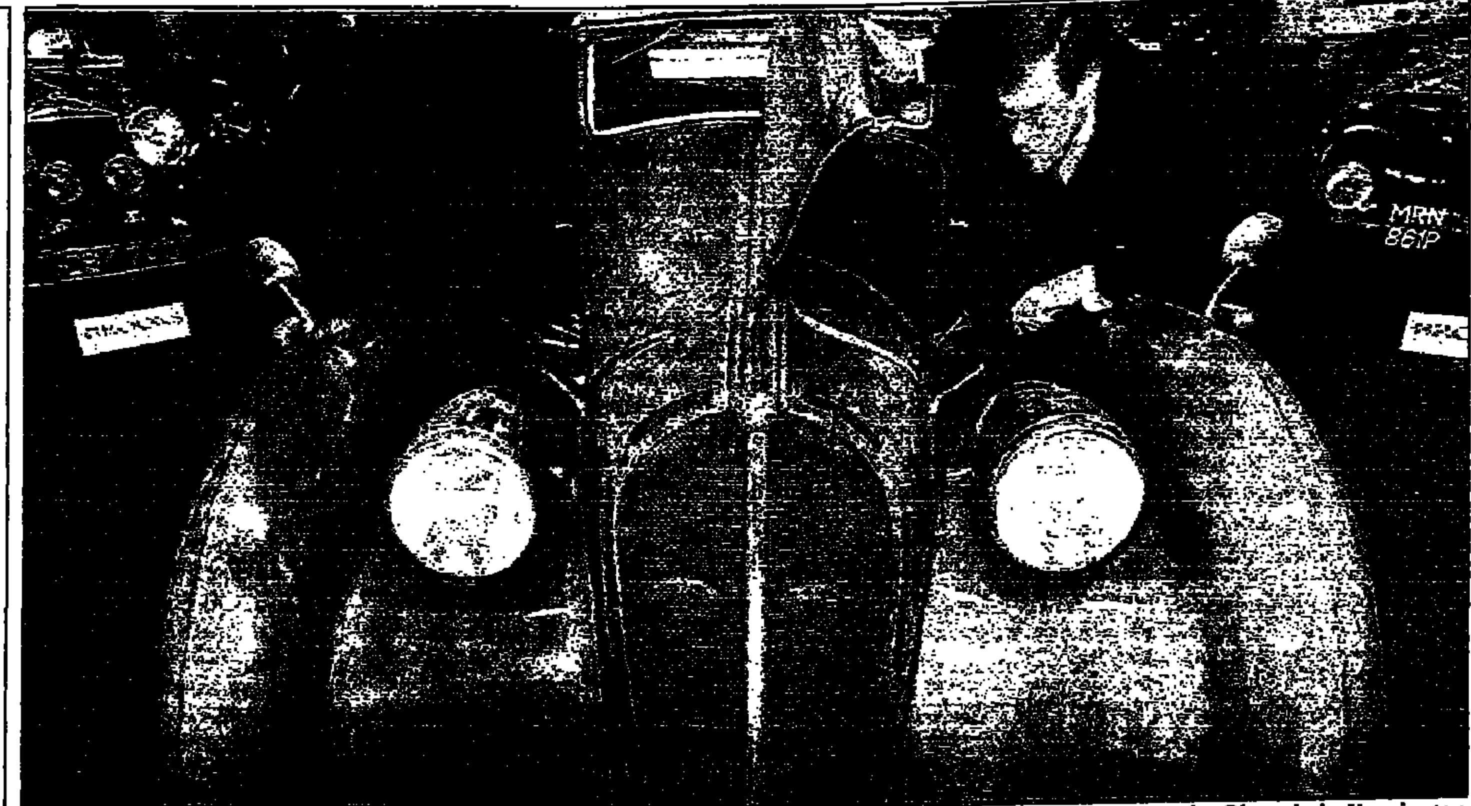
Anwar starts jail term

Anwar Ibrahim started a six-year jail term as Malaysia's political drama reached a climax cementing the power of his arch-enemy, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister........ **Page 19**

Heave-ho, it's an elephant to go

■ A lot of heave-ho, shouting and tranquillisers is the answer to the debate over what to do with too many elephants, according to a Zimbabwean game expert. Instead of mowing them down in culls when overpopulation threatens to destroy their environment, Clem Coetsee knocks them out, loads them on to a pantechnicon and takes them wherever you want........ **Page 18**

SUZANNE HUBBARD



An American paid £579,000 for this 1932 Alfa Romeo 8C-2300 Cabriolet last night as Brooks auctioned 57 cars at the Olympia in Kensington

BUSINESS

House move: Halifax, Britain's largest mortgage lender, is rationalising its high street presence and selling more than a third of its estate agency outlets........ **Page 27**

Dealings: DaimlerChrysler, the US-German car giant, is being investigated by EU officials over Mercedes sales policies........ **Pages 27, 28**

Net sales: Bernard Arnault, the French luxury goods billionaire, has bought a 20 per cent stake in an as yet tiny Internet auctioneer of fine art........ **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index touched a new all-time high again before falling back to 6493, a loss of 19 points on the day. The pound was up slightly against the dollar at $1.6176 while the euro finished the day at 66.83p........ **Page 30**

SPORT

Golf: Nick Faldo was given his clearest warning yet that he needs to improve his form dramatically if he is to claim a place in the Europe Ryder Cup team........ **Page 45**

Football: Michael Owen's injured hamstring will take him out of England's next two European championship qualifying games... **Page 52**

Cricket: Paul Prichard, the Essex opening batsman, fell nine runs short of making the first century of the county championship as his side was bowled out for 252 by Leicestershire........ **Pages 46-47**

Athletics: Three years ago, a doctor told Elana Meyer that she would be lucky to run another marathon. Recovered from an Achilles tendon injury, the South African is the woman to beat on Sunday........ **Page 49**

ARTS

Cinema 1: Tony Harrison is pursuing his mission to bring the poetic muse into every corner of life in his new movie, *Prometheus*; but does poetry work on film?........ **Page 36**

Cinema 2: All of the week's new movies reviewed, including a sumptuous homage to the ever-popular Oscar Wilde in *An Ideal Husband*, and the controversial black comedy, *Happiness*........ **Page 37**

Back to Beethoven: The pianist Alfred Brendel has recorded all the Beethoven piano concertos for the fourth and — he says — last time. Why does he do it?........ **Page 38**

Ever optimistic: The National Theatre unveils its version of Bernstein's musical *Candide*, with Voltaire's sardonic comedy and wry outrage well to the fore........ **Page 39**

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Binswanger's disease and the Mardi Gra bomber; multiple sclerosis; power-napping........ **Page 20**

Hurrah for 30: At last, a television show has treated reaching 30 as an achievement rather than the end of the line........ **Page 21**

Novel approach: The hand-held electronic book can carry the contents of ten novels. But it is no threat to the real thing. For a start, there's the $500 price tag... **Page 21**

BOOKS

Reviews: Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, hails a testament to the vanished world of the *shtetl*, a reminder of how Jews lived before the Holocaust........ **Pages 40, 41**

TRAVEL

Best buys: A literary week in the West Country; good value with Greek islands; a surf, sail and cycle Caribbean holiday........ **Page 42**

THE PAPERS

Algeria's presidential election tomorrow offers an opportunity to end a seven-year civil war between the army and Islamic guerrillas that has cost more than 80,000 lives. But for that to happen, the ruling generals must permit an honest vote count and allow the winner to govern freely. Having sanctioned democratic competition, both sides are now obliged to honor the results.

The New York Times

Preview: The return of the sporting quiz *They Think It's All Over* (BBC1) **Review:** Peter Barnard is unimpressed by the BBC's shaggy dog stories........ **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

Straw's list

The British Government is not simply acting as an agent for Spain in the extradition of General Pinochet. It is also pursuing him on its own account........ **Page 23**

Down but not out

The Malaysian Prime Minister has manipulated justice to suit his repressive political ends in the sentencing of Anwar to six years in jail. But a force is emerging in Malaysia as a result of the trial that was intended to stifle its birth........ **Page 23**

Tomb with a view

The discovery of a Roman sarcophagus will teach modern Britons more than a few facts about the society which once colonised their country. They may also find more of those emotional links through which classical civilisation can best become real again........ **Page 23**

COLUMNS

SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

Fear of a republican split should not prevent decommissioning. A split cannot be dodged, so decommissioning should not be ducked........ **Page 22**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

If you want to understand what effect your second vote will have, and how it will translate into the number of MPs your party musters, then you may have to retire to a darkened room, with a wet towel around your brow........ **Page 22**

MICK HUME

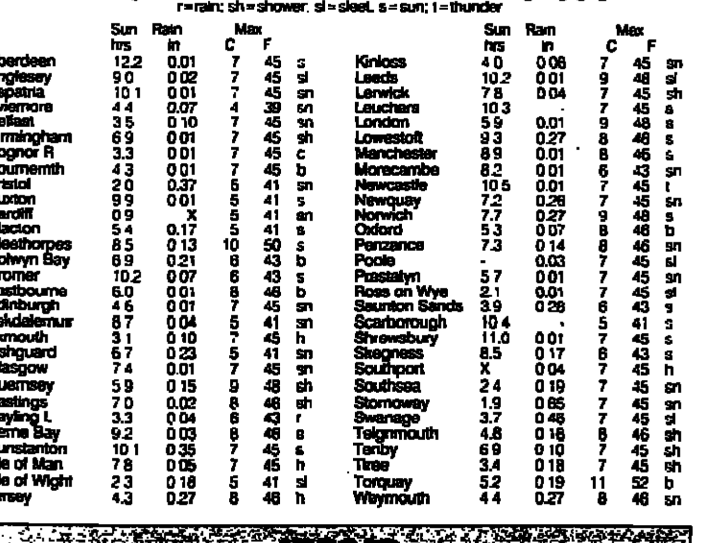
The war against the Serbs is primarily about giving Mr Blair's Government an aura of moral authority and a sense of mission. It is about projecting a self-image of the ethical new Britain bestriding the world. It is a crusade........ **Page 22**

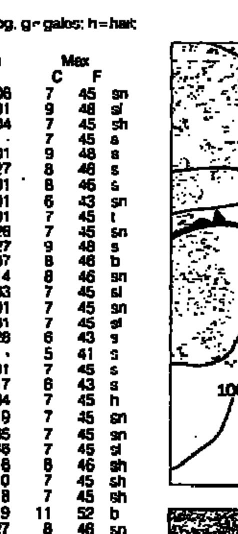
OBITUARIES

Frank Tuohy, writer; **Brigadier Wilfred Ponsonby**, OBE, soldier and conjuror; **Sir Angus Paton**, CMG, civil engineer........ **Page 25**

LETTERS

Frederick Forsyth on Kosovo blunders; historic musical instuments; brain medicine; employee surveillance; St George's Day........ **Page 23**





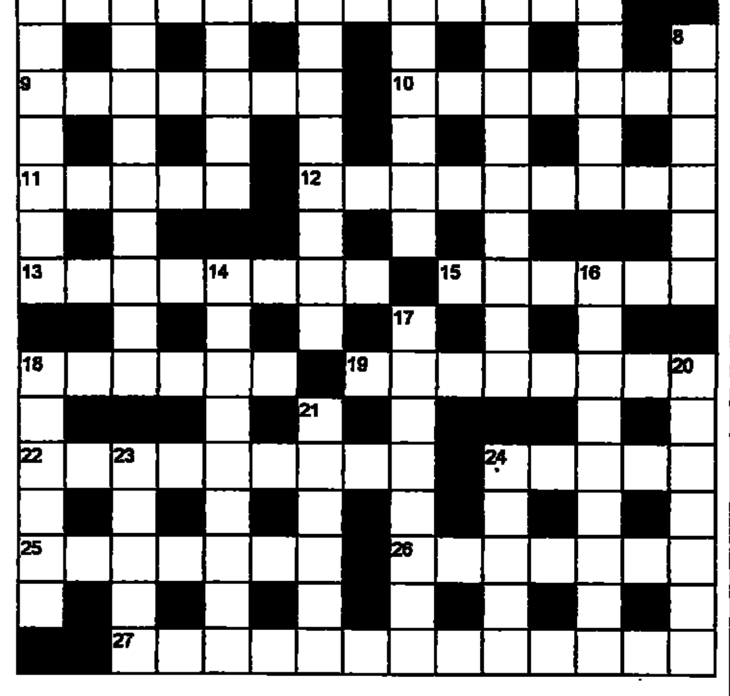
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **MEDIA**
The editors with whom I have worked, by a newspaper managing director

■ **EDUCATION**
How a website is encouraging children to write by putting them in touch with some of their favourite authors

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,078



ACROSS

1 Made out to be important (13).
9 Agree Egyptian deity is a figment of the imagination (7).
10 Plan friendly gesture to bird (7).
11 Height achieved by fighter force (5).
12 Position of perfect balance one needed to cut boundary (5-4).
13 One way to get face relaxed (4-4).
15 Loved the return of Eliot's hero, leaving North (6).
18 Somebody often supported by Lord Chancellor (6).
19 Female help's attachment to male help (8).
22 Young animals eat a lot, nothing complicated (4,5).
24 Learner ostentatiously good in short stretch (5).
25 Flat accommodation here for half the usual people? (7).
26 See one university admitted to cut in old-fashioned course (7).
27 Say completely in old language (7,6).

DOWN

1 Like our currency – get about one million in swap (7).
2 Punishing with hanging, having taken drug (9).
3 Unskilful writer moved over into computer studies (5).
4 Aim to get excitement in keeper's job (4-4).
5 Cause weakness? Not even to the French (6).
6 Rash got from being out in sun without hat? (3-6).
7 Fear being killed, if resistance is overcome (5).
8 Stop supporting modest bid, being mean (6).
14 Butterfly is overflowing with colour (9).
16 Keep on working to break into paper (9).
17 Pieces of paper covering outcome of union negotiation? (8).
18 British family I caught on island, a Pacific one (6).
20 Problem as area is omitted from phone book (7).
21 Be encouraged to make small profit in America (4,2).
23 Keen to sing this? (5).
24 Superior sort of busybody, say (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,077

```
CONJUGATE VIGIL
O U N P N E R A
BEBOP OBSERVANT
W I O G N D N H
EXAMPLE ARIADNE
B   U A R   S R
BEALLANDENDALL
Y T A     O A E
 SHERLOCKHOLMES
Q E   V I M   T
UNNERVE NELUMBO
I A U R G A A N
NEEDLEFUL DHOTI
Z U E E E E R A
EMMER DETENTION
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Times Two Crossword, page 52

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1999. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kitling Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Thursday, April 15, 1999. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

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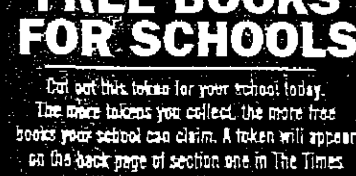
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HOURS OF DARKNESS



Sun rises: 6.06 am — Sun sets: 7.56 pm
Moon sets: 7.01 pm — Moon rises: 6.13 am
New moon tomorrow

London 7.56 pm to 6.03 am
Bristol 8.06 pm to 6.14 am
Edinburgh 8.19 pm to 6.06 am
Manchester 8.09 pm to 6.08 am
Penzance 8.15 pm to 6.28 am





FORECAST

☐ **General:** east and south-east England will have some early sunshine but it will be very cold with showery rain later. The rest of England and Wales will start cloudier with rain, clearing to leave a mix of sunny spells and heavy, possibly wintry showers. Northern Ireland will be cold and blustery with heavy showers and limited sunny spells. Northern and western Scotland will also be windy with heavy and at times wintry showers, but south-east Scotland should have some longer sunny breaks.

☐ **Tonight:** the brisk north-west wind will drop. Showers will die away from most inland areas of England and Wales to leave a mainly dry and cold night with a frost away from coasts. There may also be some mist and fog by dawn. Scotland will also have a very cold night with showers. Northern Ireland will also have a few wintry showers.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England:** another cold start, then sunny until showery rain, possibly with sleet on hills, in afternoon. Moderate south-west wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N:** starting dry, but very cold with rain later in morning, then sunny spells and heavy showers in afternoon, wintry over the hills. Moderate west wind, becoming north-westerly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England:** chilly morning with outbreaks of showery rain and sleet clearing to a cold and breezy afternoon with sunny spells and scattered showers, wintry over hills. Moderate north-westerly wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Channel Islands, SW England:** rain and sleet will clear to sunny spells and the odd shower. Moderate north-westerly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** cold and breezy day with isolated showers. Fresh north-westerly wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow:** after a dry, chilly start, showers will move southwards, many of hail and sleet. Strong north-west wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Argyll, Moray Firth, N Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** a penetrating wind with showers, many heavy with hail or sleet and snow on the mountains. Strong north-west wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Ireland:** cold with sunny spells and scattered showers, some wintry. Moderate north-west wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** fine and sunny then cloudy with scattered showers, perhaps with thunder. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** it will become less windy on Friday but will remain cold with overnight frost and some wintry showers. Eastern England will have the best of any sunny spells. It will stay cold on Saturday with scattered showers and a few sunny spells.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

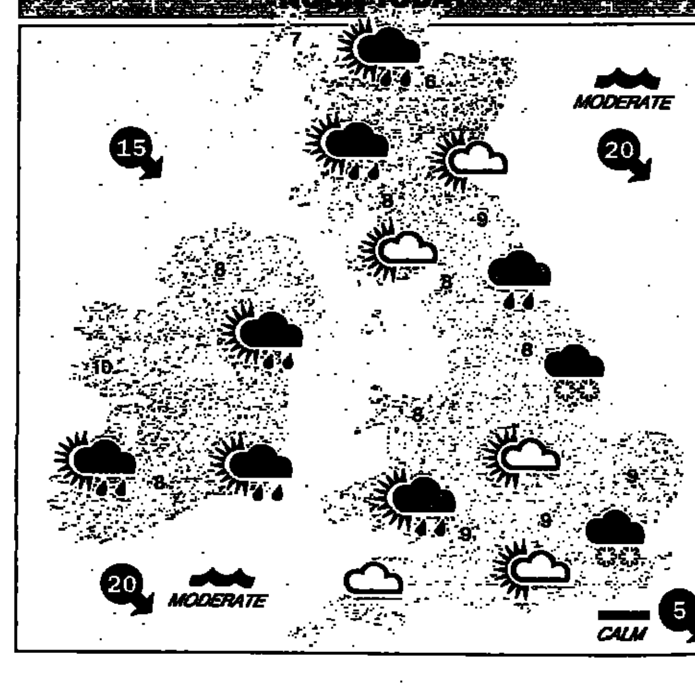
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	12.2	0.01	7	45	s
Anglesey	9.0	0.02	7	45	sl
Aspatria	10.1	0.01	7	45	sn
Aviemore	4.4	0.07	4	39	sn
Belfast	3.5	0.10	7	45	sn
Birmingham	6.9	0.01	7	45	sh
Bognor R	3.3	0.01	7	45	c
Bournemth	4.3	0.01	7	45	b
Bristol	2.0	0.37	5	41	sn
Buxton	9.9	0.01	5	41	s
Cardiff	0.9	X	5	41	sn
Clacton	5.4	0.17	5	41	s
Cleethorpes	8.5	0.13	10	50	s
Colwyn Bay	6.9	0.21	6	43	b
Cromer	10.2	0.07	6	43	s
Eastbourne	6.0	0.01	8	46	b
Edinburgh	4.6	0.01	7	45	sn
Eskdalemuir	8.7	0.04	5	41	sn
Exmouth	3.1	0.10	7	45	h
Fishguard	6.7	0.23	5	41	sn
Glasgow	7.4	0.01	7	45	sn
Guernsey	5.9	0.15	9	48	sh
Hastings	7.0	0.02	8	46	sh
Hayling I	3.3	0.04	6	43	r
Herne Bay	9.2	0.03	8	46	s
Hunstanton	10.1	0.35	7	45	s
Isle of Man	7.8	0.05	7	45	h
Isle of Wight	2.3	0.18	5	41	sl
Jersey	4.3	0.27	8	46	h
Kinloss	4.0	0.06	7	45	sn
Leeds	10.2	0.01	9	48	sl
Lerwick	7.8	0.04	7	45	sh
Leuchars	10.3	-	7	45	s
London	5.9	0.01	9	48	s
Lowestoft	9.3	0.27	8	46	s
Manchester	8.9	0.01	8	46	s
Morecambe	8.2	0.01	6	43	sn
Newcastle	10.5	0.01	7	45	t
Newquay	7.2	0.26	7	45	sn
Norwich	7.7	0.27	9	48	s
Oxford	5.3	0.07	8	46	b
Penzance	7.3	0.14	8	46	sn
Poole	-	0.03	7	45	sl
Prestatyn	5.7	0.01	7	45	sn
Ross on Wye	2.1	0.01	7	45	sl
Saunton Sands	3.9	0.28	6	43	s
Scarborough	10.4	-	5	41	s
Shrewsbury	11.0	0.01	7	45	s
Skegness	8.5	0.17	6	43	s
Southport	X	0.04	7	45	h
Southsea	2.4	0.19	7	45	sn
Stornoway	1.9	0.65	7	45	sn
Swanage	3.7	0.45	7	45	sl
Teignmouth	4.8	0.16	8	46	sh
Tenby	6.9	0.10	7	45	sh
Tiree	3.4	0.18	7	45	sh
Torquay	5.2	0.19	11	52	b
Weymouth	4.4	0.27	8	46	sn

ABROAD

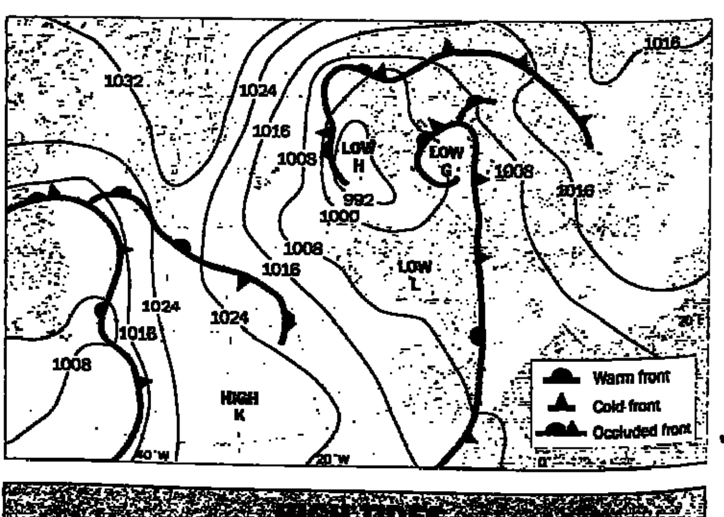
	C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	c
Akrotiri	18	64	f
Alex'dria	21	70	s
Algiers	19	66	s
Amst'dm	8	46	f
Athens	19	66	s
Bahrain	27	72	s
Bangkok	32	90	f
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	21	70	s
Beijing	20	68	s
Beirut	18	64	f
Belgrade	17	63	c
Berlin	13	55	f
Bermuda	19	66	f
Biarritz	13	55	f
Bordeaux	12	54	r
Brussels	8	46	sh
Budapest	14	57	f
B Aires	23	73	f
Cairo	25	77	s
Cape Tn	22	72	s
Chicago	14	57	s
Ch'church	13	55	X
Cologne	10	50	f
C'phagn	7	45	c
Corfu	15	59	r
Dublin	6	43	s
Dubrovnik	11	52	r
Faro	19	66	s
Florence	14	57	f
Frankfurt	8	46	f
Funchal	17	63	c
Geneva	8	46	r
Gibraltar	21	70	s
Helsinki	1	34	sn
Hong K	27	81	s
Innsbruck	9	48	f
Istanbul	18	64	s
Jeddah	33	91	s
Jo'burg	21	70	f
L Palmas	22	72	s
Le Touquet	9	48	f
Lisbon	16	61	s
Locarno	17	63	f
L Angeles	15	59	f
Luxembg	8	46	f
Luxor	31	88	s
Madrid	17	63	s
Majorca	18	64	s
Malaga	26	79	s
Malta	19	66	s
Melbourne	X		
Mexico C	24	75	s
Miami	31	88	s
Milan	18	64	s
Montreal	8	46	s
Moscow	8	46	c
Munich	9	48	c
Nairobi	25	77	f
Naples	13	55	r
N Delhi	35	95	s
N York	13	55	s
Nice	18	64	s
Oslo	1	34	sn
Paris	11	52	c
Perth	X		
Prague	12	54	f
Reykjavik	-3	27	sn
Rhodes	19	66	s
Rio de J	24	75	f
Riyadh	37	99	s
Rome	15	59	s
Salzburg	9	48	c
S Frisco	12	54	s
Santiago	23	73	s
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	9	48	c
Singapore	31	88	f
Stockholm	5	41	f
Strasb'rg	7	45	c
Sydney	24	75	s
Tangier	18	64	c
Tel Aviv	21	70	f
Tenerife	23	73	s
Tokyo	22	72	s
Toronto	11	52	s
Tunis	22	72	s
Valencia	21	70	s
Vanc'ver	8	46	s
Venice	11	52	r
Vienna	9	48	r
Warsaw	16	61	f
Wash'ton	15	59	s
Wellington	14	57	X
Zurich	7	45	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low L will drift north and merge with low H; low G will move east; high K will remain stationary



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	0:30	4.2	12:36	4.3
Avonmouth	6:26	13.5	18:49	13.7
Belfast	10:09	3.4	22:40	3.4
Cardiff	6:12	12.5	18:35	12.6
Devonport	4:52	5.5	17:18	5.5
Dover	10:11	6.6	22:33	6.8
Dublin	10:43	4.1	23:14	4.1
Falmouth	4:23	5.3	16:49	5.3
Greenock	-	-	12:02	3.4
Harwich	11:18	4.1	23:33	4.0
Holyhead	9:31	5.7	21:57	5.7
Hull (Albert D)	5:35	8.5	17:42	8.8
Ilfracombe	5:12	9.3	17:35	9.4
King's Lynn	5:35	6.9	17:44	7.4
Leith	1:45	5.5	13:58	5.6
Liverpool	10:28	9.6	22:53	9.7
London Bridge	0:50	7.0	13:20	7.4
Lowestoft	8:54	2.4	20:51	2.5
Margate	11:25	4.8	23:29	4.9
Milford Haven	5:24	7.0	17:47	7.1
Newquay	4:17	7.0	16:39	7.1
Oban	5:05	4.1	17:24	3.9
Penzance	3:45	5.6	16:07	5.5
Portland	6:03	2.0	18:37	2.1
Portsmouth	10:31	4.6	22:58	4.8
Shoreham	10:24	6.2	22:48	6.5
Southampton	10:06	4.4	22:33	4.6
Swansea	5:33	12.5	17:57	12.5
Tees	2:52	9.9	15:01	10.1
Walton-On-Naze	11:08	4.3	23:23	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Altnaharra, Highland, 0.74in; highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 12.2 hrs.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 15 1999

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Halifax to sell off 224 estate agency branches

BY CAROLINE MERRELL AND SUSAN EMMETT

HALIFAX has put up the "for sale" sign on 224 branches of its estate agency network in a move that could threaten up to 1,500 jobs.

The cost of the disposals and subsequent rationalising of its high street network will, said the bank, be about £55 million in addition to a goodwill accounting writedown of £120 million on the branches to be sold.

Halifax yesterday said that it is confident that it would find buyers for all the agencies, representing more than a third of its 606 outlets. Countrywide Assured, the UK's biggest estate agency chain, has already expressed an interest in acquiring some of the branches. The Bradford & Bingley, the building society that acquired Black Horse agencies off Lloyds TSB last year, also indicated that it would be taking a look.

James Crosby, Halifax chief executive, said that the restructuring costs would be recouped over three years, with annual savings worth £50 million. The estate agency chain as a whole is responsible for about 10 per cent of Halifax's new mortgage business — equivalent to £1 billion a year.

The move to shed the agencies will leave the Halifax with 382 outlets, 150 of which would be linked in some way to a main Halifax banking branch.

Mr Crosby said: "The real inspiration behind this is that it will improve introductions and cross-referrals between the two networks, so we're confident of making that back up over the next two to three years."

The estate agency chain was built up over ten years. Regional branch networks were bought and rebranded as Halifax Property Services. Mr Crosby said its smaller outlets were the most likely to be sold. He said the board had already received expressions of interest from the agencies' management teams and from third parties. After the disposals, Halifax will remain Britain's third-largest high street estate agency network.

An integration programme at the bank is aimed at creating a single, flatter management structure by the end of August this year. The current 123 banking and estate agency regional units are to be replaced by 50 Customer Marketing Areas, with one manager responsible for both businesses in each area.

Halifax's partial exit from the market comes as one of the potential bidders, Countrywide Assured, unveiled record trading figures. The company said results for March dwarfed February's strong performance but gave warning that its surveying and conveyancing operations would be strained if high demand continued.

Countrywide surveyors achieved record levels, carrying out more than 64,000 surveys in March, while the conveyancing division opened more than 4,500 new files. The estate agency arm, which comprises of 750 outlets, also recorded a record level of fees at more than £16 million, compared with £14 million the previous month.

Harry Hill, group managing director, said: "We are going to have a good market. The only problem I can think of is coping with the extra demand. Our conveyancers and surveyors could struggle to maintain their service standards."

Figures from the Halifax itself, however paint a more subdued picture. The country's largest mortgage lender said house prices rose by just 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1999, compared with a rise of 1 per cent in the final quarter of last year. It was the lowest quarterly rise since the third quarter of 1995. Annual house price inflation also fell to 4.4 per cent from 5.5 per cent in the final quarter of 1998.

Commentary, page 29

LENDERS FAIL TO FIND DES. RES. IN THE HIGH STREET

HALIFAX is not the only high street lender to scale down its involvement in estate agency. Only last year, Lloyds TSB sold off its 370-branch estate agency network for £60 million to Bradford & Bingley. Woolwich also pulled out of estate agency in 1998 by selling off its 167-branch chain to Winterthur Life for around £23 million. It had previously bought part of the chain from Prudential eight years previously for £20 million.

Nationwide, the UK's biggest building society, sold its loss-making 300-branch estate agency business to Hambro Countrywide, which later became Countrywide for just £1 in 1994. The society lost a total of £200 million on its estate agency venture. The UK clearing banks, apart from the Lloyds TSB, have preferred to steer entirely clear of estate agents. Barclays, NatWest and Midland have never been tempted in to the market.

Window shopping: Halifax's estate agency branches have already attracted interest from Countrywide Assured and Bradford & Bingley

Optimism returns to City as FTSE touches new high

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CITY optimism about the health of the economy has staged an "astounding" recovery in the past few months, a new report published yesterday claimed.

The latest monthly survey of fund managers by Merrill Lynch and Gallup showed that more than 80 per cent of City investors anticipate an improvement in the economy over the next year compared with just 3 per cent in September.

The City's optimism is supported by a separate report from Business Strategies, the economic research group, which suggests Britain will comfortably avoid recession this year recording growth of 0.8 per cent.

It gave warning, however, that the overall picture masked sharp regional divergences. Scotland and the North East will suffer an outright decline in output while the South East will achieve a 2 per cent growth rate.

The evidence of rising confidence came as the stock market set yet another record high. The FTSE 100 touched 6,539.9 but failed to hold its gains and eventually closed down 19.5 at 6,493.6.

The Merrill Lynch survey confirms that City fund managers are increasingly bullish about the outlook for the economy, expecting economic growth of 1.1 per cent this year — in line with the Treasury's forecast — and climbing to 2 per cent in 2000.

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Fund managers remain moderate buyers of UK equities and are selling gilts. However, they are more sceptical about the high valuations of US shares and are switching to Japan and Asia Pacific in search of value.

The Japanese market has been the world's top performer this year despite few signs of a recovery. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development yesterday added to doubts about Japan's ability to return to growth, saying the country stood on the verge of decades of stagnation.

In a report commissioned by the Japanese Government, the OECD called on policymakers to introduce comprehensive regulatory reforms to ward off the spectre of long-term economic underperformance.

US policymakers have been critical of Japan's reluctance to reform claiming that it is leaving the US to take the strain of the global growth. If the US economy falters, global growth rates are set to head even lower.

Trevor Greetham, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, argues, however, that a rebound in Japanese growth could prove more damaging to Western economies.

"Another slump in Asia would probably be just as positive for Western equities as the last one," he said.



WEBSITE: http://www.oecd.org

Daimler Chrysler faces EU dealer inquiry

BY CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

DAIMLERCHRYSLER has been accused by the European Commission of illegal sales practices involving Mercedes-Benz car dealerships.

The automotive giant could face massive fines of up to 10 per cent of its turnover if the European competition watchdog prosecutes the company for attempting to seal off markets and prevent consumers from taking advantage of price differentials across borders.

The EU has issued a formal warning to DaimlerChrysler containing evidence of sales restrictions imposed on dealers in Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Spain that "impaired the ability of dealers to sell to people residing outside of their territory".

The inquiry concerns events in the ten years to 1996. DaimlerChrysler said that it was co-operating with the investigation.

According to Stefan Rating, a spokesman for the Commission, the restrictions came in the form of formal prohibitions to sell abroad. "There used to be a lively cross-border trade. In Spain, some Mercedes dealers sold half their cars abroad."

Further pressure to scrap the "block exemption", the concession that allows car manufacturers to control the dealerships, is now likely. Mr Rating said: "The condition under which we accepted the block exemption was that individuals could buy cars where they chose."

The EU has also found evidence that competition within Germany in the fleet and rental car market was being hampered by conditions imposed on Mercedes-Benz dealers not to compete outside of their area.

The control exercised by auto manufacturers over dealer pricing of cars has provoked several investigations, including a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry in the UK, which is due to report this year. An EU survey found differences of as much as 40 per cent in the price of similar cars across Europe.

The DaimlerChrysler inquiry is the second European investigation into attempts to segregate markets and manipulate prices in the auto trade.

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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6493.6	(-19.5)
Yield	2.12%	
FTSE All Share	2963.33	(-2.93)
Nikkei	16764.68	(+49.52)
New York:		
Dow Jones	10454.12	(+59.11)*
S&P Composite	1348.19	(-1.63)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	96[illegible]*	(96[illegible])
Yield	5.50%*	(5.50%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.95	(117.96)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6125*	(1.6160)
London:		
$	1.6177	(1.6167)
€	1.4963	(1.4983)
SFr	2.4008	(2.4025)
Yen	192.07	(194.30)
£ Index	103.0	(103.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0783*	(1.0779)
SFr	1.4883*	(1.4905)
Yen	118.80*	(119.66)
$ index	107.9	(108.3)

Tokyo close Yen 119.16

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$14.75	($15.10)

GOLD

London close	$283.25	($283.85)

* denotes midday trading prices

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BG and Shell's £617m bid wins Brazilian gas

BY CARL MORTISHEAD, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

BG AND SHELL have won the tender for control of Latin America's largest gas distribution company with a $988 million (£617 million) bid for a majority stake in Comgas, the Saõ Paulo gas utility in Brazil.

The successful bid for Comgas, won against stiff competition from Enron, Agip and Gas Natural of Spain, gives BG a controlling interest in a vast gas network in Latin America's Southern Cone.

BG is buying a share in the gas monopoly in Saõ Paulo to complement its dominant interest in Metrogas, the Buenos Aires gas company.

The two gas hubs will soon be linked via a pipeline from Argentina, through Uruguay to Brazil and, to complete the supply chain, BG is also a shareholder in a pipeline linking Brazil with Bolivia's gas reserves where BG Exploration has recently made a gas discovery.

Stephen Brandon, BG director, said BG was building in Brazil what British Gas was in the UK 30 years ago.

"In Brazil's case, they have chosen to do this with a private company, rather than a state-owned utility."

BG has teamed up with Shell, which already owned a 15.6 per cent interest in Comgas, to bid for the State of Saõ Paulo's 52.7 per cent stake with BG funding 95 per cent of the bid.

According to Mr Brandon, Saõ Paolo has an undeveloped gas market, in part due to a gas shortage which will be remedied when the Bolivia pipeline delivers gas to the city in May. Comgas will have a 12-year monopoly over industrial customers and a 30-year sole franchise over a consumer market of 24 million people. Mr Brandon said Comgas would invest $300 million in developing its urban network.

Commentary, page 29

Worldwide revamp for Burger King

BURGER KING, the fast-food chain owned by Diageo, is planning to revamp its 10,200 restaurants around the world — and says that tilting its hamburger logo is a key feature of the strategy (Paul Armstrong writes).

Burger King said that the new, lopsided bun would "suggest motion and dimension" and "better reflect the company's core equities".

The group is also promising computer games for children and more efficient kitchens.

A spokesman for Burger King refused to say how much the renovations would cost or when the modernisation would reach the United Kingdom.

Arnault online in £2.6m art deal

BY FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, who is fighting François Pinault for control of Gucci, is to take on his arch-rival in a new arena: online auctions.

He has paid £2.64 million to become the largest shareholder in iCollector, a tiny Ofex-traded company that sells antiques, fine art and other collectables over the Internet.

This will bring him into direct competition with M Pinault who owns Christie's, the international auction house, which is planning to launch its own on-line auction service in September this year.

Richard Lamping, iCollector's chief operating officer, said M Arnault will control a 20 per cent stake. iCollector has been trading for four years, and has been selling fine art and antiques for the past seven months.

In July last year, M Pinault paid £721 million for Christie's. Last month he gave Gucci a $3 billion cash injection in return for a 40 per cent stake.

M Arnault, who has 34 per cent of Gucci, is now trying to mount a full $8.5 billion takeover bid to thwart M Pinault.

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LINKS
WEBSITES: www.icollector.com
www.christies.com

3i closer to winning bid for Electra

THE odds on venture capitalist 3i succeeding in its attempt to buy Electra Investment Trust shortenened last night as enthusiasm for Electra's independence appeared to ebb (Robert Cole writes).

Shareholders meet today to vote on a plan by Electra's board to buy back 40 per cent of the trust's shares and then wind it up over the next five years. The vote is a crucial test of opinion on the 3i bid. If the board loses the vote it will leave the path open for shareholders to accept 3i's offer.

The chances of Electra succeeding are hampered further because it needs support from 75 per cent of those voting if its buyback and wind up plan is to proceed.

BMW's plans discussed

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

BMW is soon to begin the transformation of its Rover Longbridge factory, starting with talks between the company and the trade unions on investment plans.

The German car company said it would open talks on the implementation of its investment after agreeing in principle to the aid package offered by the UK Government. BMW is expected to put up to £1.7 billion into the loss-making Longbridge, while aid from the UK, including Treasury cash, regional grants and council allowances, is likely to reach £200 million in staged payments.

Production methods and productivity are expected to be the main focus of the talks.

Tony Woodley, the Transport and General Workers' Union's chief negotiator for the car industry, said he expected BMW to look at outsourcing some operations to suppliers as it transforms Longbridge from an outdated integrated car plant to a more modern operation. "Longbridge will emerge smaller and leaner, and there will be less direct Rover workers. But that does not mean to say there will be less jobs overall."

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.63	2.45
Austria Sch	21.59	19.93
Belgium Fr	63.55	58.59
Canada $	2.539	2.351
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9095	0.8380
Denmark Kr	11.71	10.82
Egypt	5.73	5.12
Finland Mkk	9.45	8.70
France Fr	10.28	9.50
Germany Dm	3.090	2.848
Greece Dr	511	472
Hong Kong $	13.37	12.17
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17584	12584
Ireland Pt	1.2329	1.1439
Israel Shk	6.88	6.22
Italy Lira	3073	2836
Japan Yen	207.20	189.67
Malta	0.676	0.617
Netherlds Gld	3.488	3.193
New Zealand $	3.12	2.88
Norway Kr	13.07	12.13
Portugal Esc	312.50	290.47
S Africa Rd	10.48	9.52
Spain Pta	260.44	241.65
Sweden Kr	14.16	13.06
Switzerland Fr	2.554	2.336
Turkey Lira	632659	590608
USA $	1.725	1.582

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Information packs: Greycoat's Peter Thornton, chairman, left, Martin Poole and Chris Strickland, development director

Greycoat 'up for sale' as it snubs Delancey

By Carl Mortished

Greycoat, the Central London property developer, revealed a 29 per cent increase in its net worth yesterday and shrugged off a hostile bid from Delancey Estates, dismissing the 194p per share paper offer as "the wrong price" and "the wrong currency".

Greycoat's share price gained 19p to 234½p after the property group announced that its year-end revaluation had produced a rise in net asset value from 220p to 283p.

Martin Poole, finance director, said that the offer from Delancey, a company backed by George Soros and British Land, was "almost irrelevant" as Greycoat has put itself up for sale. Mr Poole said that Rothschild, the merchant bank, was already sending information packages to interested buyers as part of the tender process which would be completed in five weeks, ahead of the Delancey bid.

"Delancey are welcome to take part in that process," he said.

Greycoat is expecting offers from major institutions, as well as large property companies and other investors, who have expressed interest in the company's assets. A number of potential buyers have indicated that they want Greycoat's directors to stay on to manage the assets.

A core attraction of Greycoat is £100 million in accumulated tax losses which should shelter a bidder from any tax liability for years to come. Mr Poole said that Greycoat had considered three options: a liquidation, a sale of the company or to double its size by taking over a rival. "The obvious candidate is Wates [the City of London property developer] but even that would leave us at half the size of what the institutions want."

According to Mr Poole, fund managers have no time for small-cap companies and to reach the billion-pound scale that would attract their attention would be too great a task. A liquidation, meanwhile, would attract a £30 million stamp duty bill.

Greycoat's valuation uplift includes 25p per share from development profits and a 6 per cent gain on the existing portfolio. Some 10p per share of the uplift was achieved from refurbishments of existing buildings.

Tempus, page 30

Maxwell firm is cleared over fees

By Jon Ashworth

The accountant who was criticised for charging £1.6 million in a fruitless search for assets of the late Robert Maxwell has been cleared of wrongdoing in case which has lasting implications for the accountancy and legal professions.

Peter Phillips of the firm Buchler Phillips, receiver to Maxwell's estate, was widely criticised when it emerged that all but £40,000 of recoveries had been swallowed up in his costs. A High Court judge described the figures as "profoundly shocking".

The matter was referred to the legal official who usually investigates challenges by clients to solicitors' fees. In his preliminary ruling, the official Chief Master Hurst completely vindicates Mr Phillips, saying the receivership was carried out "with a high degree of skill and efficiency".

The ruling will stoke the debate on whether lawyers and accountants should be paid on a contingency basis — fees paid as a percentage of recoveries — or on a time-basis. Chief Master Hurst found that of £666,000 claimed by Buchler Phillips in fees, some £659,000 was allowable — that is 99 per cent of the fee had been fairly earned.

Monies recovered by Buchler Phillips were in many cases claimed by other parts of the Maxwell receivership, skewing the ratio of fees to recoveries. Chief Master Hurst said: "Had the receivers not investigated all leads, they would have been open to the severest criticsm."

The ruling is an embarrassment to Mr Justice Ferris, the judge who referred the matter in July 1997 saying: "I find it shameful that a receivership should produce this result."

Investec puts £1.4bn value on Open...

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

CITY analysts have put a value of £1.4 billion on Open..., the digital interactive television service, before it has even opened its door for business.

The valuation came yesterday from Investec Henderson Crosthwaite, the firm of brokers, and was made even though the company behind Open..., British Interactive Broadcasting, is committed to subsidising SkyDigital receiver boxes for three years.

Mathew Horsman, media analyst at Investec, said yesterday that he had used conservative assumptions for the £1.4 billion figure for BIB's "present value".

BIB is a four company consortium that plans to offer home shopping and home banking, e-mail and Internet access, all via the television screen, from later this year.

BSkyB, the satellite venture in which News International, the parent group of *The Times* has a 40 per cent stake, owns 32.5 per cent of BIB as does British Telecom. Midland Bank has 20 per cent of the venture and Matsushita, the Japanese electronics group, 15 per cent.

The Investec valuation is based on the assumption that in 1999-2000 only 25 per cent of SkyDigital subscribers will use Open...; this figure is expected to rise to 3.96 million at the end of 2008-09.

Solicitors to vote on future of indemnity fund

By Gavin Lumsden

MORE than 75,000 solicitors have been given the chance to abandon their profession's indemnity insurance arrangements in a move which could hand Lloyd's of London brokers an extra £200 million in annual business.

The Law Society has sent ballot papers to all its members asking them to vote on whether the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund, which it operates, should be scrapped allowing solicitors to buy their own professional insurance on the open market.

Solicitors are obliged to buy the first £1 million of their indemnity cover through the SIF. The purpose of the industry fund is to pay for the legal costs and compensation owed to members of the public who have suffered as a result of lawyers' negligence.

However, the arrangement has become deeply unpopular with many firms who complain that the SIF's indemnity cover costs about 30 per cent more than cover bought from insurers. Opposition to SIF has been led by the November Meeting Group, which represents 19 large City firms, and band of smaller provincial firms that call themselves the Millennium Group.

Both complain that the SIF effectively supports legal firms with bad claims records and they resent having to subsidise the fund — which is suffering from a £400 million shortfall arising from the conveyancing boom of the late 1980s and 1990s — with an annual average subsidy of £5,300.

Michael Dalton, a sole practitioner, is challenging the SIF in the High Court on the grounds that it breaches European competition law. The ballot closes on May 6.



BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Management set to buy British Fittings

BRITISH FITTINGS, the industrial components distributor, is understood to have agreed a £35.6 million management buyout deal which could be announced as early as today (Fraser Nelson writes). City sources believe that Michael Borlenghi, its chairman, and Brian Stanton, the chief executive, have found backing to make a 140p-a-share cash offer for the Birmingham-based engineering company.

Their offer is said to have been appoved by M&G, the fund manager, and Eaglet Investment Trust, its two largest institutional investors. Three weeks ago, the company returned an £8 million annual loss after taking a goodwill charge on the disposal of its high-pressure water-jetting business. Its shares have been buoyed by takeover talk for the past six weeks, with rivals Wolseley or Oliver Ashworth named as possible bidders. The shares added 5½p to 124p in trading yesterday to hit a record high as more than half a million shares changed hands. The stock has skipped up from a low of 68p, touched just before Christmas.

Zeneca's China venture

ZENECA AGROCHEMICALS has begun work on a $110 million (£68 million) herbicide manufacturing plant in China, which will supply the Asian region once it becomes operational in 2001. The plant, a joint venture with three Chinese partners, will make paraquat, the active ingredient in Zeneca's Gramoxone. Sir David Barnes, deputy chairman of newly merged AstraZeneca, will tomorrow be present at the ground-breaking ceremony in Nantong, Jiangsu province. The plant is the largest agrochemical investment in China by a foreign company.

Phytopharm progress

PHYTOPHARM, the company seeking to develop medicines from plants, signalled that it is making progress with its development project with Pfizer. It said yesterday that it had established a South African operation to provide supplies for phase II and phase III trials for P57, derived from a desert cactus, which it is hoped could be developed into a lucrative treatment for obesity. Phase II trials to establish proof of principle will begin in the next few months. Phytopharm's shares climbed 4½p to 261½p, up from 80p last August.

JP Morgan income up

JP MORGAN yesterday became the latest US securities house to flex its muscles after recovering from last year's global market turmoil. It said net income for the first quarter rose 64 per cent to $600 million. This was in spite of a 67 per cent fall in proprietary trading revenues, which included write downs on Brazilian equity investments. Overall return on equity in the first quarter was 22 per cent, up from 13 per cent a year ago. The results followed strong profit performances from Merrill Lynch and Paine Webber earlier this week.

Pennon forecasts rise

SOUTH WEST WATER yesterday became the latest company to offer a price cut short of the regulator's demands. Pennon, its holding company, said it could cut bills by 2 per cent up to the years 2001-2002. Ian Byatt, the regulator, has called for a 15-20 per cent cut in South West's bills, which are the highest in the country. Pennon forecast it would then have to increase bills so that by 2004/2005 — the end of the next regulatory period — they would be 2.4 per cent higher than they are now.

AIB eyes Polish bank

ALLIED IRISH BANKS, which already owns 60 per cent of Weilkopolski Bank in Poland, is close to being selected by the Polish Government as the preferred buyer of 80 per cent of the Bank Zachodni. In an interview given to a Polish newspaper, Thomas Mulcahy, chief executive, indicated that AIB was interested in expanding in Poland, where the Government has been selling off state-owned businesses. Seperately, HSBC confirmed a price of $178 million (£110 million) for its purchase of a 67 per cent holding in Mid-Med Bank of Malta.

Brixton exits Belgium

BRIXTON ESTATE said yesterday it had ceased operating in Belgium by selling its Belgian subsidiaries to Leasinvest SA for £41.2 million and that its property assets in Germany were being actively marketed. The divestment, which follows the sale of the company's French property in March, is the penultimate step in its strategy to pull out of Europe and focus on its core area in southeast England. The Belgian companies generated a pre-tax profit of £3.2 million in 1998 and their net assets were £43.8 million.

IT quartet for Synstar

SYNSTAR revealed yesterday that it had won four new information technology contracts worth a total of £35 million and covering periods of between three and five years. The company said it had also renewed a maintenance agreement with Telecom Italia. Synstar said it won IT contracts from GKN Westland Helicopters, Galileo, The Royal Navy and Belgian Bank KBC. In addition, it has renewed its partnership with Telecom Italia to provide maintenance to its five printer centres, which generate the telephone bills for its customers throughout Italy.

Cadbury revises sale

THE Coca-Cola Company has amended the terms of its proposal to buy Cadbury Schweppes in Australia. In an effort to win the approval of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Cadbury Schweppes Australia (CSA) has agreed to use its Schweppes Cottee's business to provide a competitor of sufficient size to satisfy the ACCC. CSA will also take ownership of several additional brands, meaning the size of its business will not change. The companies are waiting for the ACCC to review the proposal.

Car buyers being 'ripped off'

CAR and motorbike manufacturers are ripping off British consumers, an all-party committee of MPs was told yesterday (Robert Lea writes).

The Trade and Industry Select Committee, which is looking into so-called "parallel imports" was told that consumers could pay up to £8,000, or 30 per cent less for a car from an independent trader than they would from an official dealer.

Representatives of the British Independent Motor Trade Association and the Association of Parallel Importers (which represents motorcycle dealers) told the committee, of the effect of the "grey market", in which branded goods are brought into the country through "unofficial channels".

The committee is investigating trading, trademark and competition issues.

Its figures show that an independent trader is likely to sell a new Alfa Romeo 146 TI for 30 per cent less than the £17,000 price tag at a main dealer. On the much cheaper Ford Ka 2, officially retailing at £8,845, the difference is about 21 per cent. It was claimed that, at the top of the market, consumers could buy a 1999 Porsche 911 Carrera for £60,000 from an independent, against nearly £68,000 from a Porsche franchise.

Speaking ahead of the committee hearing, Richard Moore, of BIMTA, said: "If the Government truly has the interests of consumers at heart it can prove it by lifting restrictions on the number of cars allowed to be brought into the UK by independents."

Jack Glover, of the API, said: "Trademark rights were established to assure consumers about the origins of the goods they were buying, not to protect suppliers and thereby big company profits. These figures clearly show how companies are ripping off the UK public, forcing them to pay artificially high prices."

NEW CAR DIFFERENTIALS

MAKE/MODEL	RETAIL PRICE	BIMTA PRICE	SAVING
Porsche 911 Carrera Tiptronic	£67,950	£59,995	12%
Mercedes Benz E300 Elegance	£34,765	£29,995	14%
BMW 328 1A SE	£29,140	£24,995	14%
Chrysler Voyager 3.3	£23,545	£19,995	15%
MGF WC	£20,395	£17,995	12%
Alfa Romeo 146 Ti	£17,076	£11,995	30%
VW Golf GT TDI	£16,495	£14,995	12%
Fiat Punto Cabriolet	£15,309	£11,995	22%
Ford KA 2	£8,845	£6,995	21%

Source: British Independent Motor Trade Association.

After the Lord Mayor's show . . .



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Tonight could be the night when a number of City folk brave the barracking of their peers and "come out". Some will stride bravely, head held high, into the specially convened gathering. Others will, no doubt, try to find a side door by which to slip into the meeting.

The hope is that, by the end of the evening, they will have gained sufficient strength from hearing from those confident enough to proclaim their leanings publicly that they, too, will declare themselves. Yes, Business for Sterling is on a recruitment drive.

The anti-euro lobby group has decided that the City is in danger of being brainwashed into believing that Britain's entry into the single currency is both inevitable and essential, when neither is the case.

Yet the City's own government seems disturbingly inclined to take this view. The Lord Mayor, Lord Levene of Portsoken, and Judith Mayhew, who effectively leads the City Corporation as chairman of its policy and resources committee, have made clear their euro-leanings. In the process, they have raised the hackles of those who believe that they should have remained above the battle. Miss Mayhew has been prevailed upon to resign her membership of Britain in Europe, but she would have been better not to have joined in the first place.

The way in which the City is governed is archaic and undemocratic but it has at least in the past had the virtue of being completely apolitical. Even if the Square Mile had ever opted for anything as radical as a complete overhaul of its franchise, it was unlikely that electors would be faced with ballot papers stuffed with closet communists. Nonetheless, even allowing for what may be a rather limited spread of political views, the Corporation has banished political arguments in the running of its affairs and the policy has served the City well.

But from the moment he disembarked from the golden coach to begin his year at Mansion House, Lord Levene has been using his new platform to push for Britain's entry into the euro. He has given warning that Britain's status as Europe's pre-eminent financial centre will be damaged if the country remains outside the single currency for long. In important speeches and interviews, he has referred to London as "an offshore centre" at risk of being beaten by a European superpower. And he obviously believes it.

But not all his constituents see it this way. Tonight Stanley Yassukovich, the deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange and hardly a little Englander, will put the alternative view. Those alongside him will include Sir John Craven, another man with international perspective, formerly chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and now of Lonrho.

They will argue that it is an erosion of confidence in the City which poses a threat, not the euro. London, after all, is expert at dealing in any currency. But the Lord Mayor's pro-euro crusade risks damaging confidence in the very industry he is pledged to promote.

Same selling, different pitch

Traditionally, estate agents have ranked close to politicians on the public's trust ratings. Perhaps we should not be surprised that banks and estate agencies are now to be run by the same individuals. Retail banks have turned themselves into sellers of insurance and dubious savings products and there is no reason why the salesmen should not be able to extol the advantages of a superior semi-detached, with no mention of the dry rot in the rafters or the unsavoury neighbours.

The Halifax is not pulling out of estate agency, merely trying to do it a little more efficiently. The aim is not merely to achieve cost savings but to deliver a greater level of the currently fashionable "customer focus". So meet the Customer Marketing Area. The customer marketing area managers will be responsible for all retail banking and estate agency in their areas. The CMAs will be "organised and managed around customer data, demographic statistics and journey-to-work information". In short, this is a new way of the Halifax trying to sell more products. And, since the former building society is losing its share of the new mortgage market, it certainly needs to do just that.

Buying estate agencies and selling them has been one of the favourite activities of financial institutions, generally to the benefit of those estate agents who sold rather than the banks who bought. Many estate agents have been double winners, selling their firms for generous sums and then buying them back for a fraction of the money when the banks bailed out. As the Halifax sells getting on for half the chain it painstakingly assembled in the late 1980s, there will no doubt be some of the former owners keen to help out.

Estate agency is essentially a business for keen salesmen who know the local market. The entrepreneurial style is hard for big banks to duplicate and the advantages of trying to do so are not as clear as they might appear in the minds of business strategists. The public wariness of estate agents has not made them a favourite choice for the supply of financial products. The Halifax's CMA structure may change that but shareholders should not bank on it.

Instead, they should take note of the continuing success of the Co-op Bank, which continues to win business by adopting a stance that endeavours to lift it above that of the second-hand car — or house — salesman. The Co-op Bank is also trying to be customer focused, but putting automatic telling machines into convenience stores, where people want them, may actually win more loyalty from customers than introducing a fancy new CMA structure.

BG has the power again in Brazil

Brazil is BG's kind of country. None of this nonsense about competitive supply, demerged pipeline companies and regulators that revalue your assets.

In Brazil and Argentina BG is going back to the future. Utility rates of return and a fierce pricing regime are the future in the UK and probably the Continent when Europe summons up the courage to enforce liberalisation. But gas is a new power source in Brazil, which needs foreign capital to build local networks and supply lines.

In return, BG is being encouraged to create the dominant power base that has been ripped apart by Ofgas in the UK. A 30-year franchise (12 years for industrial customers) provides the payback, and pricing is pegged to inflation for five years. No messing with rates of return, the regulator just sets the tarriff.

It did not have to be so: BG's partner, Shell, had its fingers burned in Peru, where a government fearful of being in hock to a big, bad oil company jibbed at giving Shell carte blanche to control both gas supply and distribution.

It is not an unreasonable fear, but the safety feature is that BG as Comgas is not Brazil's British Gas. A foreign private monopoly can be nationalised, if necessary, or expelled. .

That risk is remote and should not fuel fears over whether BG paid too much. It paid a premium and Shell, perhaps a less brazen investor these days, is taking a noticeably small stake. But for the prize of gas giant in the Southern Cone, a premium is surely warranted.

Arnault's new line

THE mercurial Bernard Arnault has not previously exhibited much interest in the World Wide Web. In fact, he has been rather sniffy about how great brands such as his could benefit from being paraded before the hoi polloi online. But M Arnault is nothing if not flexible, so here he is acquiring 20 per cent of an Ofex Internet company. The motive may be typically Arnaultesque: since François Pinault has tried to queer his pitch with Gucci, M Arnault is now going into the Internet art market, and getting there before Christie's (prop. F Pinault). All good fun.

Eurotunnel to expand in telecoms

By Chris Ayres

EUROTUNNEL, the debt-laden company that operates and maintains the rail tunnel beneath the English Channel, yesterday revealed plans to cash in on the enormously lucrative European telecoms market by expanding its underwater telephone network.

The company will expand its high-capacity telecoms network through a subsidiary called Eurotunnel Telecoms. The company is currently looking to team up with a telecoms company in the US to help to sell its services around the world and yesterday admitted that the deal could involve the partner company taking a stake in Eurotunnel Telecoms.

Last year Eurotunnel Telecoms generated just £8.9 million in sales — three times more than in the previous year — and made estimated profits of £3 million. However, analysts already value the company at £250 million. This is because it is quicker and easier to install cables in the Channel Tunnel than it is to lay cables on the floor of the English Channel. Eurotunnel's cables are also expected to last longer and be of better quality.

Jim McCafferty, an analyst at SG Securities, compared the business to the telephone networks built several years ago by British Rail and British Waterways. "I think it makes a lot of sense," he said. "I think it could be a very valuable business indeed."

Eurotunnel Telecoms will have two main operations: a commercial telecoms operator, which will provide services between London and Paris, and a provider of infrastructure to other telecoms companies.

Alain Bertrand, managing director of Eurotunnel, said: "The Channel tunnel is already the natural choice for cross-Channel transport for passengers and freight between the UK and France. For the 21st century it will also become the natural choice for telecommunications between continental Europe and the UK to North America."

Tempus, page 30

Education channel on hold

GRANADA and United News & Media's plans for a £20 million-a-year Department of Education and Employment contract from an education television channel have been put on hold (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The two commercial broadcasters and the BBC all made bids for the contract. But Parliament was told yesterday by Charles Clarke, Education Minister, that the shortlisted bidders will now have to take part in demonstration projects to test GCSE curriculum modules. The decision means there is now no chance of the channel going ahead this autumn as originally planned.

High-risk £300m at M&G

M&G, the retail fund manager being bought by the Prudential for £1.9 billion, yesterday revealed just how much it has riding on the high-risk junk bond market (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Having been dogged by several years of poor performance and shrinking sales, M&G saved its bacon in 1998-99 by attracting £673 million from Pep investors, an increase of more than 20 per cent on the previous year.

Nearly half of this came from 35,000 high-income seekers, who poured £300 million into the M&G High Yield Pep. By investing in risky, sub-investment grade corporate bonds M&G was able to offer investors attractive tax-free yields of up to 8.4 per cent.

The fund's success is likely to push M&G back into the top ten of Pep providers when first-quarter sales figures are known.

Since the start of the year investors are believed to have pumped a staggering £4.8 billion into Peps before they were withdrawn on April 6.

Time Warner given lift by box office hit

THE box office success of *You've Got Mail*, the latest film romance between Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, and strong album sales from Madonna helped Time Warner to turn round its first-quarter performance (Adam Jones writes). The entertainment conglomerate revealed pre-tax profits of $304 million (£189 million) yesterday, compared with a loss of $25 million in the same period last year. Sales rose 2 per cent to $6.2 billion.

You've Got Mail has grossed $241 million so far worldwide. The resurrection of Cher's career was another bonus and Warner Music group operating profits were up 10 per cent. The profit rebound was helped by an exceptional net gain of $215 million after the termination of a video distribution agreement with MGM.





Shares drift lower as investors take a break

A SHORTAGE of corporate news and an uninspiring start on Wall Street saw the London stock market pause for a breather yesterday. After a marked fall in the morning, followed by a brief rise to a new high of 6,539.9 points early in the afternoon, the leading index eventually closed down 19.5 points at 6,493.6.

Modest profit-taking on blue chips and bargain hunting among second-liners was the order of the day, with the FTSE 250 managing a 45.1-point gain to 5,637.5.

Warren Buffett, the legendary American investor, continues to intrigue the market after his admission on Monday that he is building a stake in a large British company.

Mr Buffett is known to be keen on companies with strong consumer brands and speculation has linked him with **Marks & Spencer**, 14¼p better at 443½p, and **Cadbury Schweppes**, which sweetened 18½p to 933p. Other shares linked to Buffett yesterday included **British Airways**, up 32½p to 520½p, and **Reckitt & Colman**, 11½p better at 676p.

Shares of **British Steel** were up 10¼p to 149¼p, with a hefty 33 million changing hands. The company climbed to a nine-month high, buoyed by a recent slew of positive analysts' comment and a subsequent shortage of stock. Credit Suisse First Boston reiterated its "buy" recommendation on the stock, saying it believed there was a high probability that the expected industry consolidation would go ahead.

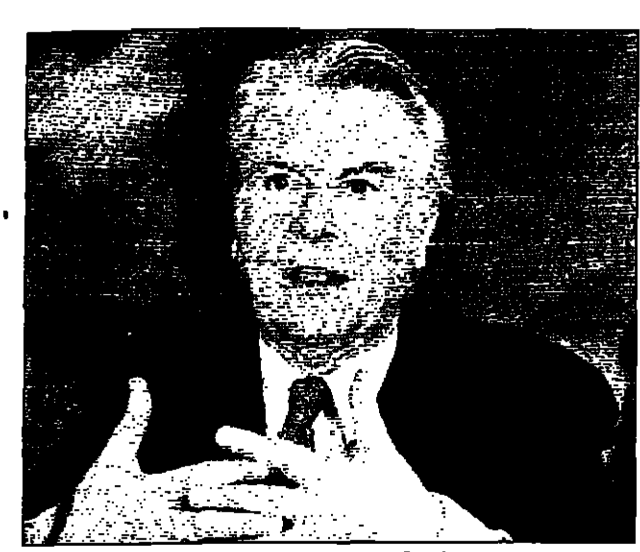
The chemicals sector powered ahead by 4.7 per cent, providing much of the action. **ICI** led the way, shooting up 47½p to 635½p, after a report that it is close to a deal to sell its materials and industrial chemicals divisions to Huntsman of the US. The warm feeling spread to **Burmah Castrol**, the chemicals and lubricants group, which improved 93p to £10.34 with two aggressive buyers reported in the market.

Laporte, the company that began the chemical reaction at the beginning of the week, gained 34p to 701½p on rumours that talks to buy the company may restart. Swiss giant Clariant is thought to have been scared off after the massive 30 per cent price hike on Monday when news of discussions was leaked.

Abbey National rose 29p to £14.09 after SG Securities advised clients to switch into the stock from **NatWest**, unchanged at £15.44.

There was support for **BSkyB**, 18p better at 559½p after Investec Henderson Crosthwaite placed a 27p a share valuation on the company's stake in British Interactive Broadcasting and stepped up its target price for BSkyB to 630p from 580p. Buying ahead of Monday's new business numbers helped **Norwich Union** gain 12p to 456½p, while **Diageo** advanced 19p to 685½p after announcing a revamp of its BurgerKing chain.

Fibrenet Group, the telecoms company, advanced 18½p to 472½p on talk that it is to announce European expansion plans later this week.



Lord Owen, chairman, saw shares of Middlesex Holdings rise 59 per cent to 1.08p despite a warning on bad debts

Buyers came for **Boots**, 27p up at 883½p, after a leading European investment bank advised clients to switch into the stock from **Kingfisher**, off 25½p at 865p. The house pointed out that Boots has underperformed the market by 50 per cent over the past six months.

A statement from the annual meeting of **Lloyds TSB**, saying that profits were ahead in the first quarter of 1999, was offset by off-the-cuff remarks from the senior executive team that the regulatory environment was turning against mega-mergers. The shares closed down 17p at £10.43.

Allied Domecq moved up 18½p to 485½p after a report in *The Times* revealed that the company has put a for sale sign over its John Bull pub franchise business.

A revival of bid speculation boosted **London International Group** 15½p to 167½p, while **St James Place** advanced 5p to 285p despite denying speculation that Prudential is about to offer 400p a share for the financial services holding company.

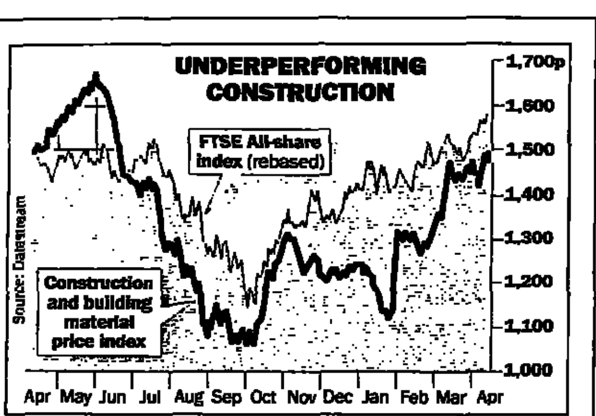
David S Smith continued to look healthy, adding 10p to 133p on continued expectations of a takeover attempt. Speculation of a bid from US group Wal-Mart also lifted **Safeway**, the supermarket, 10p to 261½p.

Middlesex Holdings, a metal and financial services group where Lord Owen is chairman, managed a 59 per cent jump on huge volumes of 13.4 million after saying that Russian bad debt provisions will result in significant losses for 1998. However, the shares are still only worth 1.08p.

Scoot.com, the loss-making telephone and Internet consumer information service, yesterday agreed to buy Diva Solutions, an Internet and intranet development company. Scoot.com said that the terms of the deal would be disclosed when the deal had been completed. The news caused shares to rise 5p to 37¾p.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts were mixed amid low volumes and an absence of UK economic data. The June series of the long gilt was 11p down at £117.87, while among conventional issues, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 gained 2p to £106.49.

□ **NEW YORK:** US blue chips surged to fresh records in early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 59.11 to 10,454.12.



THE outlook for the building and construction sector has improved markedly amid evidence that the economy will have a soft landing and that demand for houses remains strong.

This year the sector has seen a 30 per cent price gain, and a sequence of stock upgrades. But it remains undervalued, according to Merrill Lynch, the US investment house. Merrill said that while the FTSE hit new highs, materials remained 28 per cent below its January 1994 nominal high and construction fared little better at 16 per cent below its nominal high, attained ten years ago.

But the institutions have yet to share the bullishness of some analysts. Merrill said the top housebuilders such as Wimpey, unchanged at 157½p, and Bellway, up 7p at 362p, looked good value. Countrywide Assured, the estate agent, 11½p up at 155½p, confirmed the strength of the housing market, but Merrill said the environment for materials remained more difficult.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 10454.12 (+59.11)
S&P Composite .... 1348.19 (-1.63)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 16764.68 (+49.52)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 11834.13 (-65.56)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 543.60 (+2.61)

Sydney:
AO .... 3088.2 (+11.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 5182.16 (-17.02)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1702.73 (+22.75)

Brussels:
BEL20 .... 3330.96 (+3.21)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 4349.26 (-18.15)

Zurich:
SMI Index .... 7378.2 (+12.0)

London:

Index	Value
FT 30	4007.9 (+16.7)
FTSE 100	6493.6 (-19.5)
FTSE 250	5637.5 (+45.1)
FTSE 350	3084.4 (-4.2)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3019.32 (-16.06)
FTSE All-Share	2983.33 (-2.93)
FTSE Non Financials	2980.25 (-4.06)
FTSE Fixed Interest	155.47 (-0.08)
FTSE Govt Secs	114.12 (-0.07)
Bargains	89021
SEAQ Volume	1328.5m
US$	1.6176 (+0.0009)
Euro	0.6683 (+0.0008)
£:SDR	1.1891
Exchange Index	108.0 (-0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI .... 163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Issue	Price	Change
BGI Endowment III	103	+ 1
Br Smaller Cos VCT (100)	95	..
Br Smlr Cos VCT Wrts	12½	...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	111	...
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	20	...
Edinburgh Inc & Val	105½	...
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pl	102½	..
Enhanced Zero Trust	100¾	..
Gartmore High Income	108	...
Gartmore Zero Div Pl	108½	+ 1¾
Luminar Warrants	255	..
M Currie Cap Return	77¼	...
M Currie Portfolio	81¼	+ ¼
Mercury Asset Allocator	107½	+ 1
Morse Holdings	233½	− ½
NBA Quantum	110	...
Sherry FitzGerald	147	− 3
Sports Internet	137½	+ 2½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Issue	Price	Change
Calluna n/p (125)	2¼	+ ¾
Mice Group n/p (80)	18	...
Versalite&ANIL (05)	1¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
London Pacific	507½	+114	+ 28.9
Polypipe	193½	+ 36½	+ 23.2
Infobank Intl	121½	+ 22	+ 22.1
Elec Retail Sys	95	+ 15	+ 18.7
Sappi	376¾	+ 58	+ 18.2
Synstar	143	+ 18	+ 14.4
Ruberoid	103½	+ 12	+ 13.1
Debenhm Twsn	105	+ 10½	+ 11.1
Scotia	139	+ 13½	+ 10.7
Mowlem (J)	127	+ 12	+ 10.4
Rosebys	112½	+ 10½	+ 10.2
Lon Intl	167½	+ 15½	+ 10.1
Air Partner	220	+ 20	+ 10.0
Burmah Castrl	1034	+ 93	+ 9.8
VDC	145	+ 12	+ 9.0
Greycoat	234½	+ 19	+ 8.8
Dialog	147½	+ 11½	+ 8.4
Charter	414	+ 31½	+ 8.2
SIG	164½	+ 12½	+ 8.2
Ramco Egy	265	+ 20	+ 8.1

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Action Cp Spls	199½	− 18½	− 8.4
Hibernian IE	538	− 36	− 6.2
Provident	1030	− 65	− 5.9
Dixons Grp	1471	− 71	− 4.6
Reed Intl	555	− 25	− 4.3
Somerfield	305½	− 13½	− 4.2

TEMPUS

Nagging doubts over ICI

ICI was the strongest-rising share in the FTSE 100 yesterday, courtesy of the latest suggestion that its drawn-out disposal programme is nearing a conclusion. The group is supposed to be about to sell some of its industrial chemicals and materials businesses to Huntsman, a family controlled US company.

Relief apart, does this justify the 8 per cent rise in the share price to 635½p? The Huntsman family has a reputation for making large charitable donations, but it is unlikely to make any in the direction of ICI's impoverished shareholders. Huntsman is known for paying smart prices for chemical businesses at the bottom of the cycle.

Contrastingly, ICI is known for paying top dollar. It paid £5 billion to Unilever two years ago in a deal that was supposed to transform it into a specialty chemicals business. For a while it all seemed so simple, and the shares wafted up to £12.44 on the potential in perfumes and flavourings. That was before investors noticed the debt mountain and the downturn in the chemicals industry, and before ICI had the misfortune to have three big disposals blocked by US competition worries.

Even if it can squeeze £1.7 billion out of Huntsman, the group's debt will remain substantial at around £2.5 billion. Enough problems remain to leave cash generation looking sickly, and that threatens investment in ICI's future. Moreover, a dividend cut looks on the cards when the company finally fights its way out from under its debts.

ICI's shares have been tracking the market these past few months, but too many uncertainties remain to make them attractive.

Eurotunnel

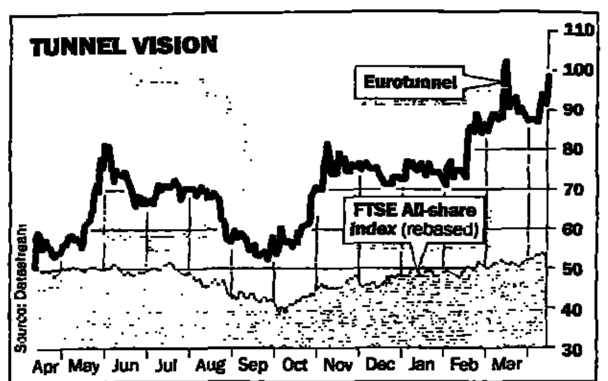
NEWS about the growth of Eurotunnel's telecoms business is encouraging. But the numbers are still very small and it would be easy to get carried away.

Eurotunnel Telecoms, however, is significant for what it says about the company's ambitions. It shows that now the horrendous construction phase is past, Eurotunnel can build an extended business around its core asset.

Telecoms has great potential and Eurotunnel may well be able to do an Energis — albeit on a more modest scale. More interesting is Eurotunnel's desire to develop a distribution network for Europe. The Internet may be a fantastic marketing and order-laying tool. But logistics firms — which transport the Internet-ordered goods — should be among the first to benefit from the superhighway in terms of concrete profitability.

Good news can only flow from the current anger of UK lorry drivers, too. If they are driven from the road altogether, or to base themselves on the Continent, rail networks and Eurotunnel will benefit.

The attractions of the Eurotunnel equity stock was highlighted in Tempus last July. Since then, the value has grown 45 per cent. Depite this it remains worth buying, although more sophisticated investors may prefer to look at Eurotunnel debt. Parts trade at a fraction of par value yet Eurotunnel is slowly redeeming that debt at par. As the business grows stronger and broader the redemption programme will be bolstered.



Greycoat

GIVEN Greycoat's less than dazzling track record it would be natural to welcome the advances of any bidder. But Delancey, run by a Ritblat *fils* and backed by the legendary George Soros, is in no better position to enhance shareholder returns than the incumbent team at Greycoat.

Property market expertise is a devalued management skill at companies such as these. Small property companies have more serious battles convincing investors that they are big enough to be taken seriously, and that quoted property companies represent a satisfactory way into this asset class.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that while property has genuine attractions it is better to invest directly in bricks and mortar. Institutions are used to buying commercial property directly, but home-owning private investors may have ample exposure already, and exposure could be better enhanced with the acquisition of a holiday home or a flat to rent.

With Delancey offering nothing but its own shares in consideration, Greycoat shareholders would be swapping one unattractive share for another if they embraced this bid.

Greycoat shareholders can look forward to better pickings as its management looks for more satisfactory alternative exits. Reject the Delancey approach.

L Gardner

BRITAIN'S engineers have paid heavily for the push by major customers to cut costs and reduce the number of suppliers they deal with. But the rationalisation process is producing some winners. L Gardner is one of them.

Gardner is benefiting, but it is often forced to accept lower margins in return for increased volumes. Yet while constant pressure is exerted on its margins, the prospects for volume growth is rosy. Much of Gardner's success flows from Rolls-Royce, which is continuing to win business supplying Boeing and Airbus. The anticipated slowdown in the civil aerospace industry over the next two to four years could be grounds for concern. However, Gardner says organic growth is assured by Rolls' market strength and an expected increase in military spending on aerospace equipment.

Moreover, with interest cover of 8.5 times, Gardner has scope for debt-funded acquisitions. The strength of its paper also gives it the option of asking equity investors to help fund a major purchase.

Gardner shares trade on a forward p/e ratio of 12. With shares having run from 248p to 357½p in the last six months, the price may consolidate for a period. Nevertheless, buy for the long term.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Month	Price	Month	Price
May	778-776	Jul	915 SLR
Jul	801-799	Sep	931-929
Sep	822-830	Dec	954-939
Dec	849-847	Mar	971 SLR
Mar	874-872		
May	898-896		Volume 21632

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Month	Price	Month	Price
May	1490-1486	Jan	1507-1502
Jul	1477-1475	Mar	1512-1502
Sep	1492-1490	May	1522-1497
Nov	1505-1502		Volume 6388

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Month	Price
Spot 199.0		Dec	184.0-82.1
May	182.8-80.7	Mar	191.5-86.9
Aug	181.1-80.6	May	196.0-88.0
Oct	181.0-79.5	Aug	201.0-84.0
			Volume 7513

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 13

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	66.15	100.62	91.94
(+/−)	+5.79	−3.42	−0.03
Eng/Wales	66.14	101.07	90.91
(+/−)	+5.78	−4.17	−0.14
%	−15.0	−5.0	+11.0
Scotland	uno	98.21	96.56
(+/−)		−0.45	−0.90
%		−21.0	−1.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Crude	Price	Change
Brent Physical	14.65	−0.20
Brent 15 day (May)	14.90	−0.25
Brent 15 day (Jun)	14.75	−0.25
W Texas Intermediate (May)	16.30	−0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	16.40	−0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Product	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	160 (n/c)	162 (−1)
Gasoil EEC	126 (−3)	127 (−4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	70 (+1)	72 (+1)
Naphtha	137 (n/c)	139 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Month	Price	Month	Price
May	126.00-26.25	Aug	130.75-31.25
Jun	128.00-28.25	Sep	132.50-33.00
Jul	129.25-29.50		Vol 12859

BRENT (6.00pm)

Month	Price	Month	Price
May	14.89-14.91	Aug	14.62 SLR
Jun	14.72-14.74	Sep	n/a
Jul	14.64-14.67		Vol: 72234

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	75.70	May	74.75
Jul	77.15	Sep	74.00
Sep	75.00	Nov	76.00
Nov	76.70	Jan	78.00
Jan	78.70	Mar	80.00
Volume 447		Volume 16	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

Month	Open	Close
May	220.0	215.0
Jun	uno	225.0
Nov		75.0
		Volume 81

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May 41.50-42.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 99	920	920	920
May 99	940	935	935
Jun 99	885	885	895
Jul 99	unq	—	840
Vol 36 lots			Open interest 2387

Index 854 −2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

Metal	Cash	3mths	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1422.0-1422.5	1449.0-1450.0	1351025
Lead ($/tonne)	517.50-518.00	518.00-518.50	298575
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	993.50-994.50	1013.0-1013.5	455550
Tin ($/tonne)	5295.0-5300.0	5285.0-5290.0	25915
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1289.0-1290.0	1312.0-1312.5	2598300
Nickel ($/tonne)	5030.0-5035.0	5110.0-5115.0	72120

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	118.00	118.15	117.36	117.95	18269	82430
	Sep 99				117.67	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				108.18	0	0
	Sep 99				108.18	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	114.80	114.88	114.68	114.81	5562	37181
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	133.31	133.38	133.23	133.33	1138	
	Sep 99	132.47	132.48	132.45	132.49	122	
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.840	94.880	94.840	94.850	13866	184439
	Sep 99	94.860	94.900	94.850	94.870	28793	196084
	Dec 99	94.630	94.670	94.620	94.660	8470	142541
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.385	97.395	97.375	97.390	25753	206836
	Sep 99	97.405	97.410	97.385	97.400	20411	219335
	Dec 99	97.170	97.180	97.160	97.170	12336	124378
	Mar 00	97.270	97.270	97.250	97.260	14419	99494
	Jun 00	97.165	97.175	97.150	97.165	9244	69251
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.960	98.990	98.950	98.980	10392	110524
	Sep 99	98.880	98.920	98.870	98.900	4940	67466
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.385	97.385	97.385	97.390	20	104770
	Sep 99				97.400	0	92917
	Dec 99				97.170	0	83198
	Mar 00				97.260	0	83891
	Jun 00	97.160	97.160	97.160	97.165	9	63425
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6535.0	6592.0	6501.0	6534.0	22886	202233
	Sep 99	6578.5	6578.5	6578.5	6582.5	100	3572

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance House 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high 6½ Low 5¼ Week fixed 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth 5[illegible], 3 mth 4[illegible]; Sell 2 mth 5, 3 mth 4[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 5¼, close 6½					
Local Authority Deps:	5¼	n/a	5¼	5¼	5¼
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.87	n/a	4.93	4.90	5.10
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	5-4¾	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5¼-5
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1¼-1	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $283.70-284.00 **Close:** $283.00-283.50 **High:** $283.60-284.10 **Low:** $282.90-283.40 **AM:** $283.85 **PM:** $283.40

Krugerrand: $283.75-285.75 (£175.75-177.75)

Platinum: $357.50 (£220.70) **Silver:** $4.895 (£3.035) **Palladium:** $368.00 (£227.15)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 14	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.117-11.142	11.117-11.130	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Euro	1.4954-1.4974	1.4955-1.4972	0.14-0.16ds	0.42-0.45ds
Montreal	2.4091-2.4173	2.4142-2.4173	0.17-0.09pr	0.45-0.31pr
New York	1.6158-1.6206	1.6172-1.6182	0.065-0.045pr	0.135-0.105pr
Oslo	12.461-12.519	12.461-12.478	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	13.352-13.377	13.353-13.377	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	191.94-193.23	191.94-192.19	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3993-2.4056	2.3993-2.4024	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Currency	Rate
Australia	1.5629-1.5654
Canada	1.4934-1.4944
Denmark	6.8810-6.8840
Euro	0.9245-0.9272
Hong Kong	7.7492-7.7497
Japan	118.83-118.88
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8003
Norway	7.7130-7.7180
Singapore	1.6926-1.6936
Sweden	8.2620-8.2720
Switzerland	1.4846-1.4856

OTHER STERLING

Currency	Rate
Argentina peso*	1.6195-1.6295
Australia dollar	2.5291-2.5326
Bahrain dinar	0.6025-0.6177
Brazil real*	2.6560-2.6660
Cyprus pound	0.8550-0.8764
Euro	1.4959-1.4977
Finland markka	8.8235-8.9864
Greece drachma	479.75-491.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.5351-12.5437
India rupee	68.36-70.08
Indonesia rupiah	13700.0-14400.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4880-0.5004
Malaysia ringgit	6.1466-6.1512
New Zealand dollar	2.9763-2.9819
Pakistan rupee	79.35 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8175-5.9647
Singapore dollar	2.7379-2.7413
S Africa rand	9.7080-9.9598
U A E dirham	5.8725-6.0211

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

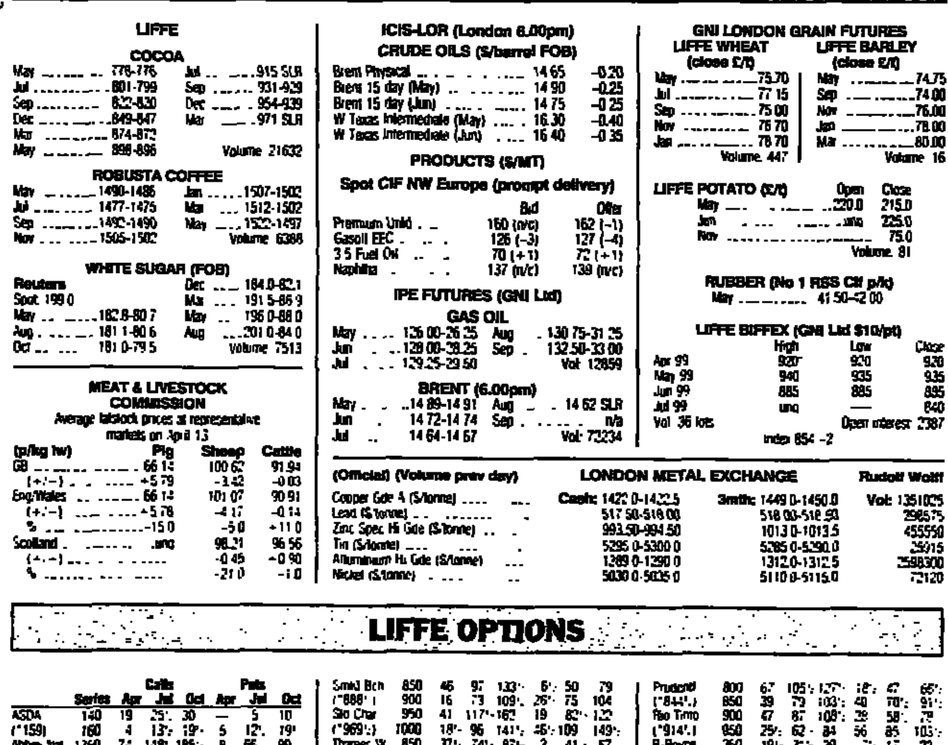
FTSE VOLUMES

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
3i	341	Kingfisher	7,307
ASDA Gp	19,575	Ladbroke	11,400
Abbey Ntl	3,304	Land Secs	1,270
Allnce & Lei	4,386	Legal & Gn	3,482
Allied Dom	4,641	Lloyds TSB	9,451
Allied Zrch	9,229	Marks Spr	15,643
Amvescap	1,490	Misys	5,986
AB Foods	840	Nat Gnd	7,779
AstraZeneca	6,498	Nat Power	4,164
Bk of Scot	3,719	NatWst Bk	3,703
BAA	3,319	Norwich Un	5,804
Barclays	4,607	Orange	1,171
Bass	2,672	P & O	2,029
BG	17,238	Pearson	1,298
Billiton	6,838	PowerGen	4,838
BOC	2,350	Prudential	5,468
Boots	7,660	Railtrack	1,743
BP Amoco	16,682	Reckitt Col	1,861
BAe	6,377	Reed Intl	5,047
BA	10,861	Rentokil	9,280
Brt Am Tob	4,229	Reuters	5,919
Brit Energy	5,207	Rio Tinto	6,144
BSkyB	2,278	Rolls Royce	6,936
BT	13,346	Ryl & Sun	7,344
BTR Siebe	26,002	Ryl Bk Scl	2,645
CGU	5,742	SA Breweries	1,256
COLT Telecom	2,261	Sainsbury	14,109
Cable Wire	9,816	Schroders	262
Cadbury	4,927	Scot & New	3,449
Carlton Cmc	2,674	Scot Sthn Engy	4,537
Centrica	18,794	Scot Power	5,675
Compass Gp	2,108	Securicor	2,171
Daily Mail A	163	Sema Gp	755
Diageo	11,334	Svrn Trent	1,218
Dixons Grp	2,987	Shell Trans	35,531
EMAP	959	Smiths Ind	542
EMI	2,909	SmKl Bch	9,134
Energis	785	Stagecoach	14,100
Gen Elec	9,526	Std Chartd	2,551
GKN	2,952	Sun Life	384
Glaxo Well	4,987	TeleWest	3,654
Granada	4,726	Tesco	50,942
GUS	2,182	Thames W	1,411
GRE	760	Unilever	10,288
Hanson	4,833	Utd News	5,844
ICI	18,372	Utd Utilities	1,185
Imperial Tob	2,399	Vodafone	9,283
HSBC	2,713	WPP	2,805
Halifax	3,034	Whitbread	1,060
Hays	1,952	Woolwich	2,793

WALL STREET

Stock	Apr 14 midday	Apr 13 close	Stock	Apr 14 midday	Apr 13 close	Stock	Apr 14 midday	Apr 13 close
AEP	[illegible]	[illegible]	Eastman Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]	Occidental Pet	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]	Office Depot	[illegible]	[illegible]
AT & T	[illegible]	[illegible]	Eaton Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Oracle	[illegible]	[illegible]
Abbott Labs	[illegible]	[illegible]	Edison Int	[illegible]	[illegible]	Owens Corning	[illegible]	[illegible]
Adobe Systems	[illegible]	[illegible]	Elect Data Sys	[illegible]	[illegible]	PPG Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]



Britain needs four top class banks



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Poor Mike O'Neill, relatively speaking. His putative role as saviour of Barclays came to an end on day one. Insultingly, the bank's shares went up, on the ground that a management vacuum now makes it a takeover play.

Why should so much depend on one man in a strong and mature business still employing many thousands? Mr O'Neill, though doubtless terrific, was only a second-level American bank executive made special by his experience of two big bank mergers. Outsiders are in no position to judge the heart condition that led him to withdraw. We do know that far too much stress was to be put on one individual's shoulders for his or the company's good.

The fatuous Anglo-Saxon version of the Alexander the Great syndrome makes a chief executive responsible both for driving an organisation to increase profitable sales and cut costs and also for devising and carrying out long-term strategy. It makes no sense.

Such a burden is demanding enough in hundreds of thousands of micro businesses, whose owner-managers work hours that would be condemned out of hand by the European Court of Human Rights as cruel and unusual punishment, let alone illegal under mundane EU directives. In a top corporation, it shows pathetic failure in corporate governance.

If only in respect to Mr O'Neill, this episode should stimulate a more imaginative debate into how top companies should be run. Barclays had a system that combined an elitist strategic chairman drawn from the best of the seven ruling families with a strongly professional, if reluctantly forelock-tugging, executive cadre.

Modern City culture is paranoid about inherited privilege, so this set-up could not survive the gross lending mistakes of the last boom. As elsewhere, however, nothing satisfactory has been put in its place, as Martin Taylor, Mr O'Neill's dynamic but lonely predecessor, eventually discovered.

The fate of Barclays is more immediately important for the future course of the British economy. Britain developed four big banks. Each has at one time been world number one by some measure or other. Only HSBC, inheritor of Midland, the first modern bank, is provisionally established as a global bank for the next century.

Lloyds TSB is an immensely profitable and focused group, run through with a simple, understandable and effective management culture set by Sir Brian Pitman when he worked in a fine partnership with the intellectual Sir Jeremy Morse. Lloyds TSB has great strength but may lack the vision to move into a new phase.

NatWest and Barclays are puffing confusedly behind. Each is vaguely copying Sir Brian, having failed in previous expansive strategies to integrate global investment banking operations. Both are highly profitable by world standards but lack direction and are sitting ducks for a takeover bid.

Their fate matters a lot for Britain. In euroland, banks are having to adjust rapidly to the prospect of a real single market, at least in corporate and investment banking.

In France, Italy, Spain and the Benelux countries, they have come to the same conclusion. Any successful modern economy needs strong locally-committed national banks. Within the UK, Scots twigged that decades ago: otherwise independence would not even be on the agenda. On the Continent, banks are consolidating at a frantic pace on a national basis, to make sure each has something capable of competing on an EU scale. Britain needs to do likewise, whether or not we join in with the euro.

Britain has a greater need of strong domestically controlled international banks than any of the euroland economy for a simple reason. The City of London, for all its faults, has a far greater function than serving our own economy. It houses one of our few key global industries. No leading country depends so much for growth on the financial services sector as Britain.

France and Spain may be best served by building a couple of international banks, counterbalanced by local savings banks. The UK needs all four we have, even if, like HSBC, they are not wholly London institutions. Most City investment banks and many key fund managers are now foreign-owned, so the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry have a key duty to make discreet and firm efforts to help to establish the top banks we need.

To achieve this, neither Barclays nor NatWest should try to preserve its own top management as an end in itself. There is little reason for the two to gravitate together, any more than there was much logic in the me-too merger between Barclays and Lloyds, which was agreed on a golf course 30 years ago in response to the the creation of NatWest, and rightly struck down by competition authorities.

Before appointing Mr O'Neill, however, Barclays rejected what was doubtless seen as an opportunist merger approach from Royal Bank of Scotland. It should at least have another think.

Unlike its more admired rival Bank of Scotland, RBS is a banking group based in Scotland rather than a Scottish bank. It has a cohesive team, both in banking and in Direct Line insurance. RBS could form a good partner in an Anglo-Scottish global bank, either for NatWest or more easily for Barclays, in spite of the latter's historic links with Bank of Scotland. The quadrille between NatWest and the perceivedly well-managed Abbey National may also be worth reviving, though possibly a change of partners might save more face.

If all don their blinkers with the too-easy excuse of pursuing shareholder value, takeovers will be sprung later, in weakness or panic, and the UK economy will suffer.

Rouble trouble for the glistening bank

Paula Hawkins on challenges facing the hybrid EBRD ahead of this weekend's annual meeting

Astrology obviously has followers everywhere. In 1996, analysts at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) began feeding key astrological dates into its computers so that they could use celestial movements to help them to forecast fluctuations in financial markets.

It clearly didn't work. Last year's emerging market turmoil forced the EBRD to triple its usual bad-debt provisions to £390 million, putting "the bank that likes to say yes — to itself" into the red for the first time since the departure of Jacques Attali, the French socialist who marked his time as president with his expensive taste in Italian marble and gold-plated door handles. Losses for 1998 totalled €261 million (£175 million). Half of the loss was because of heavy provisions for Russia, where high-profile investments in the financial sector went wrong.

The current president of the EBRD is a far more sober figure. A former head of the German Savings Banks Association, Horst Köhler faces his first annual meeting as president of the bank this weekend and has admitted that things are not going well. "This is not business at usual," he says.

Critics beg to differ. They say that it is the usual business of the EBRD recklessly lending taxpayers' money.

The EBRD was set up in 1990 to finance Eastern Europe's transition from communism to the free market. It is funded by 41 countries, with most of its capital coming from the US and the European Union. To date, it has invested €13 billion in Central and Eastern Europe, making it the largest single investor in the region. Almost a quarter of that went into Russia, and a third of the Russian investments were in the banking sector, which was devastated in last year's financial chaos.

The EBRD's critics cite two of its Russian investments as fresh proof of its poor judgment. The first is Tokobank, in which the EBRD had invested £21.6 million back in 1994. "I was shocked when the EBRD invested in Tokobank," says one fund manager. "Everyone knew that they had taken all their depositors' money and built the biggest, most beautiful offices in Moscow. Most of their money went into the building, which cost something like $100 million." It is not quite as much as the EBRD's London headquarters cost, but the irony is not lost on those who recall the Attali era.

In April 1998, Tokobank was put under supervision of the central bank after rumours that it was near collapse. The EBRD's supporters argue that "it can only analyse the information it is given", suggesting that Tokobank failed fully to disclose its situation. The fact that other banks, including the Bank of Ireland, had considered investing in Tokobank but decided against it after viewing the balance sheet suggests a failure of due diligence on the EBRD's part. This is strongly denied by David Hexter, the deputy vice-president of its banking department, who insists that "the due diligence was very thorough".

Inkombank was the second investment to go sour. The EBRD board agreed to put €54 million in Inkombank in 1997, but Mr Hexter decided not to sign the loan. "I was concerned over developments in Russia's financial system," he says. Despite such misgivings, the bank decided to make a smaller equity investment of £4.1 million in early 1998.

Ten months on, the Russian central bank revoked Inkombank's licence. A central bank spokesman said: "Inkombank totally exhausted all its own capital and violated all the economic rules."

Mr Hexter concedes that the EBRD cannot expect to get its money back on these investments. "All [private] Russian banks are now more or less insolvent," he says.



Jacques Attali displayed his taste for Italian marble while EBRD president

The EBRD's hybrid constitution — part development bank set up to facilitate a transition from communism to the free market and part private bank run to make a profit — puts it in an difficult situation. As Mr Hexter points out, the EBRD had no choice but to invest in the Russian banking sector — that is part of its mandate.

Although it may have made some poor decisions, it is not alone in that. Credit Suisse First Boston, the leading foreign bank in Russia, took an £800 million hit in 1998. Its exposure to Russia exceeded £2 billion, far more than the EBRD's. Dresdner Bank, Deutsche Bank, Barclays and ABN Amro all had to raise provisions for Russian exposure. The difference is that taxpayers fund the EBRD.

Its dismal performance in Russia last year is a severe blow to the bank, which had seen its standing rise since the Attali days, when it was dubbed "the glistening bank" and the "European Bank for Rip-off Deals". Its improved image was attributable in part to Jacques de Larosière, who presided over its six profitable years and made investment banking, rather than development banking, its top priority.

M de Larosière resigned in January 1998. It took six months for a new president to be appointed because, for a while, at least, the post was seen as the consolation prize for whoever lost the Franco-German spat over who should head the European Central Bank. Eventually, Herr Köhler was appointed. He did not take up the post until September, so the bank had been rudderless during the worst months of the financial crisis.

Herr Köhler's arrival signalled the decline of French hegemony at the EBRD. Its vice-president for finance, Steven Kaempfer, is Dutch and a former director of SG Warburg and managing director of Swiss Bank Corporation. Nick Stern, the chief economist, is British. The first vice-president, Charles Frank, is an American financier, formerly with GE Capital, and Mr Hexter, another Briton, spent nearly 20 years at Citibank.

Although investment bankers have welcomed the reduction in French bureaucrats at the bank, they remain unconvinced of its investment prowess. Some accuse it of reckless lending, others of excessive bureaucracy. "The EBRD tries to act like a real bank, but it takes so long to approve anything that it tends to miss deals," says a fund manager who waited six months for the EBRD to do due diligence on a project it was to co-finance in Bulgaria. "In the end, we had to look for someone else."

There is, though, reluctance to criticise the bank openly, which suggests that it may have more influence than its detractors like to admit. "There is a knee-jerk tendency to criticise the EBRD," says Andrew Cunningham, a Merrill Lynch analyst. "It is true that if the EBRD were not there, life would go on, but you have to recognise that it has helped to prise open some of the most closed of the former communist countries."

The problem for the EBRD now is that its losses in Russia will force it to retreat from the least hospitable Eastern European countries and turn towards less risky investments to balance its books. "We have to move towards strategic portfolio management," Herr Köhler says. Cutting risk means greater investment in the stabler Central European nations, such as Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, which least need EBRD help, and less investment in countries most needing a lifeline from the West, such as the Balkan states, Romania and Russia. So, while the bank is criticised for not making a profit, it is also criticised by local bankers in Budapest, Prague and Warsaw for stealing deals from well-capitalised foreign and local banks.

Mr Cunningham argues that despite contradictions in the bank's design, it has a role. He says: "You can argue that the bank shouldn't exist, because if it is doing profitable things, it is taking business from the private sector and if it is doing unprofitable things, it isn't fulfilling its mandate. But it's more complicated than that. The EBRD is operating in a marginal area. It is doing the deals where private banks don't have the incentive to go the extra mile."

Partial privatisation of the bank would be one solution. Economists argue that its development bank role could easily be handled by World Bank agencies. Privatisation was mooted by the US, the EBRD's biggest shareholder, in 1996. However, the bank's top brass remain stubbornly opposed to the idea, saying that it is no longer on the agenda. "There has been no discussion of privatisation at the bank," Herr Köhler says. "It is not an important issue in this new environment of risk."

Herr Köhler will have to put a more convincing case at the bank's annual bash if he is to persuade the markets that the EBRD has a role. He intends to present a report on "operational priorities for the medium term", which will put more focus on "the importance of institution building", which, he says, was underestimated. "Transition," he says, "is going to take a lot longer than everybody had thought." That is good news for EBRD staff, if not necessarily for anyone else.

Horst Köhler, new head of the EBRD, denies that there is any pressure for its privatisation

The EBRD's London base sparked 'glistening bank' jokes

Mini moocher

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

IF YOU have ever wondered why so much of this country's car industry has gone out of business or been sold to foreigners, I have a clue here. (Another is the time I tried to buy a British-made Ford: but that is another story).

I have been contacted by an American reader keen to buy the new Mini being launched by Rover next year. He has been told he cannot. Land Rovers are sold over there, but the US distributor has "no interest" in the Mini.

"Most people I have talked to that have been in England as tourists, military personnel, etc, would love to have one of these little cars," he says. He has written to BMW-owned Rover in Britain but received no response.

I ring Rover to check on US distribution plans for the Mini. "There's a question mark over it at this stage," they say. Over when the cars will be on sale there? "If and when."



Road to nowhere: Americans may find themselves denied of the new Mini

A DOUBLE helping of trouble for Spencer Stuart. The headhunter is seeking a new chief executive for Reed Elsevier, a process that ended in farce when the leading candidate walked away. Now I hear that they are also acting for Barclays Bank and have also just had to go back to square one. Or does it just mean a double helping of fees?

Name shame

THIS time every year, as regular as the first *Ceanothus* blossoms, Sainsbury's Bank does something to upset Mark Rollason, a blameless civil servant from Coventry.

Two years ago they mis-spelt his name on his new cashcard and were required to pay compensation in extra reward points. (They wrote him an apology, too. Name mis-spelt, of course).

Last year, I reported, they mis-spelt his mother's name on her Visa card. No compensation that time. Rollason, clearly a forgiving type, is still with Sainsbury's Bank. He has just received his new cashcard.

You guessed, didn't you? I ask Sainsbury's, in all seriousness, whether a bank unable to spell its customers' names despite repeated prompting is a fit place for their money, but they are refusing to comment.

Factored out

I HEAR of ructions in the rarified world of invoice discounting, not an area usually troubled by loose P45s. Lloyds TSB, which last year sold its International Factors business, is now making some changes at the two other factoring companies it still owns, Alex Lawrie and Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance.

The boards of the two firms have been "integrated". Lloyds insists this does not mean the companies will be integrated or that there will be job losses. But with Alex Lawrie based at Banbury, Oxfordshire, and Lloyds Commerical Finance at Richmond in Surrey, something looks likely to give.

SIR HERMAN OUSELEY, chairman for the Commission for Racial Equality, will today address corporate Britain at the Windsor Fellowship Forum, an organisation sponsored by Andersen Consulting and Goldman Sachs, among others. "This event is completely unique," says the invitation, "the second of its kind".

Too risky?

THE last time I wrote about computer games on City screens, the contestants were at each other with chainsaws. A Lloyd's broker has launched a more peaceful alternative and attracted 250 contestants.

Visit the *www.fiftyfive.co.uk* website of Syndicate 55 and you are invited to play Virtualia, in which you invest a notional sum by underwriting against a range of risks that could befall an imaginary country. Once registration closes at the end of May, various topical disasters are sprung on this cyberland two or three times a week.

The contestants' capital is whittled away or increased as a consequence, the leaders' names being posted on the website. After two months the winner gets a case of champagne. Probably better not to invite any Lloyd's names to play, though: they may feel they have been here before.

MARTIN WALLER

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"The good news is I've just sold a property. The bad news is it's ours"

OECD urges Japan to speed up reforms

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development yesterday urged Japan to speed up its efforts at structural reform if the country is to escape a period of prolonged economic stagnation and high unemployment.

In a damning survey of the country's efforts at regulatory reform, the OECD gave warning that Japan faces decades of weak economic performance unless it undertakes root and branch economic reform.

"Without further reform, any economic recovery in Japan will likely be fragile and short-lived, and unemployment will remain high," the report said.

The warning came as new figures showed Japanese corporate bankruptcy debts reaching record proportions in 1998, as a result of a spectacular series of business failures.

The OECD report, which was commissioned by the Japanese Government, said that while external shocks and cyclical factors had played a role in Japan's problems, the real blame for the country's economic malaise lay with an "outmoded regulatory and institutional framework".

The OECD claimed that if total productivity growth does not benefit significantly from reforms, the potential growth of the Japanese economy would fall to 1 per cent over the next decade and then decline to just 0.5 to 0.75 per cent. This would result in Japanese GDP per capita slipping from about 25 per cent above the levels in the European Union to some 20 per cent behind the EU average over the next 25 years.

Although Japan has taken steps to reform its economy, including reducing Government intervention in various key sectors, a sharp break with past practices was still needed if Japan is to build a recovery.

However, to date, Japan has opted for a piecemeal and incremental approach to reform because it suffers from a "deeply conservative policy process that slows decision-making, discourages open policy debate, encourages clientelism and allows special interests to block needed change".

The OECD called on the Japanese Government to take a comprehensive look at all sectors of the economy and, in particular, introduce competition into the transport, energy, telecommunication and property sectors. Japan also has to improve its record for administrative accountability and competition policy, the report said.

Debts left by Japanese corporate bankruptcies rose by 0.4 per cent to 15.18 trillion yen (£79 billion), said Teikoku Databank, a credit research firm. The bankruptcy debt was swollen by the collapse of 18 firms with liabilities exceeding 100 billion yen, among them several large non-bank financial institutions.

They included Japan Leasing Corp and NCB Mortgage Co, the respective affiliates of the failed Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan and Nippon Credit Bank. The two debt-ridden banks were put under government control last year, in an effort by Japanese regulators to get the nation's wobbly banking system back on its feet.

The credit research firm said it expects more firms to go to the wall in coming months. Despite rock-bottom interest rates, banks seeking to shore up their capital base continue to turn away firms that want to borrow.

Co-op first to offer Isas at the checkout

BY CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CO-OPERATIVE BANK yesterday signalled a closer relationship with the Co-op supermarkets by unveiling two financial initiatives to be delivered at the stores.

The Co-op is to become the first supermarket to offer the individual savings account at the checkout — a method of distribution deemed to be too expensive for other leading supermarkets such as Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer.

The bank is to pilot the scheme at 150 stores in Scotland. The Isa to be marketed through this method will be based on cash. Mervyn Pedelty, Co-Operative Bank chief executive, said: "Shoppers will be able to invest their spare change directly into the Isa."

The bank is also planning to roll out 350 new automatic teller machines at Co-op stores over the next two years.

Mr Pedelty estimated that having the cash machines in the supermarkets could push up sales by 2 per cent.

"The cash machines are going in to stores in the North West and in Yorkshire, in places that are deemed to be cash-machine deserts," he said.

Mr Pedelty pointed out that all banking customers would soon be able to use the machines because the UK's biggest banks had joined the Link network.

The move to greater integration came as Co-op announced record profits of £73.6 million, up 34 per cent on the 1997 figure of £55 million.

Mr Pedelty said that the rise in profits had been achieved by increasing customers by 15 per cent to 1.8 million, and by reducing the cost/income ratio to 68 per cent from 75 per cent previously.

Mr Pedelty said: "I am particularly pleased to report the improvement in our cost/income ratio, which is an indication of our increased efficiency."

Mr Pedelty also revealed that the bank intended to re-enter the mortgage market later this year. It withdrew from the market in the early Nineties because it represented only a small part of its business.

"The time is now right, and there is a big gap in our product range," he said.

Mr Pedelty is looking at ways of integrating financial services in to all companies that are members of the CWS co-operative group.

He is chairman of a committee looking at providing financial products to customers of the CIS, the insurance company, Co-op Travelcare and several other Co-op societies.

Bifu, the finance union, said that the increased profits announced by the bank were due in part to Bifu's social partnership deal with the bank.

Action Computer shares fall

SHARES of Action Computer Supplies, the mail order information technology group, fell by almost 9 per cent yesterday after the company unveiled a 12 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profit (Matthew Barbour writes).

Action said a sharp slump in personal computer sales and higher than expected operating costs at its newly acquired businesses were to blame for the drop in profit to £2.7 million. This was despite a 30 per cent jump in turnover to £140 million.

The stock closed 18½p lower at 199½p.

Action has said it is in takeover talks with a foreign company thought to be seeking an expansion into Europe.

George Laplante, managing director, said the company was planning to broaden its product mix in an attempt to cut its exposure to the volatile personal computer market.

An interim dividend of 1.35p was declared (1.25p).





Take off: Stansted airport was a big success for BAA, recording a 35 per cent increase in the number of passengers

BAA sees growth in numbers

BY ROBERT LEA

THE advent of cheap flights to the Continent and the Republic of Ireland helped BAA to shepherd eight million more passengers through its seven airports in the past 12 months, a rise of 7.6 per cent year on year.

BAA, which operates London's three busiest airports, three airports in Scotland, as well as Southampton, said that more than 40 per cent of the increase in the year to March 31 was on scheduled flights to Europe. About a quarter of the rise was accounted for by an increase in North American traffic, which was boosted by more competitive fares.

The biggest growth market was flights to the Irish Republic, however, which were up 13 per cent year on year, although from a lower base. The company said: "This reflects the buoyant economic performance of Ireland and the highly competitive air service environment."

Over the financial year, Stansted was the big growth story with its number of passengers increasing by 35 per cent — or accounting for a fifth in increased traffic across all BAA airports. Traffic at Heathrow — which accounts for about half of BAA's passenger volumes — increased by nearly 5 per cent while Gatwick, about the half the size of Heathrow, saw growth of 8 per cent.

However, recent decreasing volumes saw Aberdeen airport register growth of just 0.5 per cent in the year. The company blamed a softening in busines travel related to the uncertain oil market.

Shares in BAA rose 1p yesterday to 660p.

Bid talks boost Polypipe shares

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in Polypipe rose by almost one fifth yesterday after the diversified building materials group revealed it has entered bid talks with a mystery suitor. The company said that if made, the offer would value the company at £336 million, or 200p per share, representing a premium of 27 per cent on the closing share price before bid talks were announced.

One analyst, who did not want to be named, said: "Polypipe has traditionally had a strong position in the UK plastic pipes sector as one of the producers with the lowest costs and an extremely diverse customer base. Whereas others in the sector might sell direct to manufacturers, Polypipe has around 3,000 local accounts and has therefore been able to sustain strong margins. Whether or not a bid at this level is sufficiently tempting for shareholders is another story."

Shares in Polypipe more than halved in value last year after stocks in the plumbing and heating sector fell out of favour in the City. Since then they have risen steadily to Tuesday's closing price of 157p. Shares yesterday closed up 29p at 186p.

Acquisitions fuel Gardner increase

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

L GARDNER GROUP, the engineering company that supplies the aerospace and automotive industries, has reported a 62 per cent rise in interim profit before tax and exceptionals to £4.1 million.

The increase was fuelled by acquisitions, although there was also a rise in orders from clients such as Rolls-Royce.

Analysts said that the growth prospects for some of Gardner's key markets and the increased predictability of its earnings were behind yesterday's 16½p increase in the share price to 358p.

Andrew Fox, deputy chief executive, said that Gardner was benefiting from the rationalisation underway within the engineering sector. He added that Gardner could afford to make the capital investment needed to meet the cost-cutting targets of its customers.

"Our customers are looking to work with fewer suppliers," Mr Fox said.

He said Rolls-Royce was in the throes of cutting its component providers from 800 to 200 and other aerospace and automotive companies were adopting a similar strategy.

An interim dividend of 3p was declared, up from 2.7p.

Banks to 'axe one third' of branches

BY FRAN LITTLEWOOD

UP TO a third of the UK's high street bank branches will have shut down by 2005 as banks cash in on cut-price distribution models and millions of people switch to online banking services, a report on the industry has predicted.

More than half of 200 banking executives surveyed by Deloitte Consulting, the management consulting firm, said new channels, such as the Internet and call centres, were central to their sales and marketing strategy. As a result as many as 3,600 of the 11,000 existing branches today would be redundant.

John Reeve, partner at Deloitte, said: "The whole driver for this is low-cost provision. If you look at the economics of it, it is not surprising at all."

As competition hots up, with new entrants such as Egg, the savings arm of Prudential, snatching significant market share, the sector is being forced to look at ways of reducing costs by cutting back staff and outlets.

Deloitte, however, said that people should not see the demise of high street banking as a threat since there will be considerable savings for them as the cost of providing financial services falls.

Mr Reeve said he expects to see the full-service bank branches phased out to be replaced in the short to medium term by automated or "stripped down" outlets.

Andy McKechnie, head of new product development for personal banking at Lloyds Bank, said: "Customers want the Internet as a distribution channel. We have established the channel, but it is still very immature. It has got to get faster and more comprehensive before you can even say this is a substitute."

Tracking the broadcast of video press releases

Global media exposure can be monitored, says **Chris Ayres**

WHEN Ford bought Kwik-Fit on Monday for £1 billion, television footage of Jacques Nasser, the US car company's president, and Sir Tom Farmer, head of Kwik-Fit, was immediately beamed around the world by hundreds of different broadcasters.

The footage was filmed for Ford by Medialink, the US media group that specialises in producing video and audio "press releases" for corporate clients. However, it is still difficult for companies such as Ford to track where and when such footage is shown throughout the world. That is because multinational organisations have to rely on so-called "media trackers" sitting in front of television screens all day, every day, to monitor their global media exposure.

According to Medialink, however, this notoriously hit-and-miss method of tracking television exposure is about to be changed by its latest product, TeleTrax.

THE ICE BOX
THE HOT NEWS ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

The product — based on software developed by Lucent Technologies, the US telecoms equipment company — "watermarks" electronically video footage produced by Medialink for its corporate clients. Whenever watermarked footage is broadcast, it sends out a signal that can be picked up by Medialink's receivers, or "listening posts". The receivers then send the information back to the company's headquarters via the Internet. Clients can then access the data on the Net, or receive reports via e-mail.

Larry Isley, intellectual propery director at Lucent, says: "The technology behind TeleTrax ensures that the encoded marker cannot be altered, removed or detected by third parties, nor will it interfere with the quality of the broadcast signal."

Although watermarking has been used to track television output in the US for some time, Meidalink's product is thought to be the first that is compatible with international television technology standards.

Laurence Moskowitz, Medialink's president and chief executive, says: "Medialink is in the process of setting up listening posts, first throughout Europe, then around the world. Our goal is to monitor 1,000 stations by the end of 1999 and all relevant stations before the end of 2000."

Tracking television exposure is incredibly important. Most large companies need to know what kind of footage is being broadcast about them to assess their public image, and decide on a marketing strategy.

Companies that spend enormous amounts of cash advertising their products on television also need to track the output of broadcasters, to make sure that their commercials are being aired at the right times. It is relatively common for advertisers to have their commercials cut short by television channels, or to have them shown in the wrong slot.

Television news agencies, archive businesses, and programme-makers also need to track the output of broadcasters. After all, experts estimate that the television industry loses up to $75 million (£46.5 million) a year through piracy. This can take a number of forms: from television companies using archive footage several times when they have paid to use it once, to pirate stations broadcasting subscription channels without payment. Such piracy is set to become more difficult.

☐ A NEW software package will be launched this week that can carry out research on the Internet while its users create documents on e-mail, or prepare PowerPoint presentations. ActiveKnowledge will be launched by Autonomy, the British technology group quoted on the Easdaq stock market. The product analyses ideas in a document, then provides real-time links to relevant information in news articles, websites, e-mail messages, or files saved on an internal corporate network.

☐ TEMPUS, the British advertising group, and its US partner True North Communications have won a contract worth an estimated $750 million in billings with DaimlerChrysler, the car manufacturer. The companies will buy advertising space for a number of DaimlerChrysler's brands in Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe (excluding Germany), the Middle East and Africa.


Moskowitz: "Medialink is setting up listening posts"

Find the entrepreneur inside

A wider view of the world is vital to ensuring that the profession still counts, says **Michael Prior**

Everyone is talking about it and millions are doing it. Some start very young and enthusiastically, others come to it more cautiously later in life. Some, sadly, fail; others reach heights they had scarcely dreamt possible. I am, of course, talking about entrepreneurship.

An entrepreneurial approach has been at the root of the accountancy profession's phenomenal growth this century. Accountancy practices have responded to clients' needs and entered new areas of business as opportunities have arisen, and accountants working in business have diversified in many directions through building on their initial training.

If we are to remain at the heart of the business community in the new millennium, it is essential that accountants, regardless of whether they are in practice or in business, whether they are operating in a global environment or a local one, or whether they are in the private or the public sector, see themselves as entrepreneurs.

We must help to create new business opportunities, adapting to the constantly changing marketplace and adding value for clients and employers. In Darwinian terms, the survival of the species will depend on it.

Many see accountants as the antithesis of the entrepreneur: overcautious, risk-averse and more interested in keeping the past score than in helping to create future wealth. We must remould our image and, where necessary, change our approach so that we are recognised as balancing a healthy risk appetite with a reputation for managing risks and for offering robust, independent advice without fear or favour.

In a competitive market economy, profits are the reward for successful risk-taking, and no matter how much analysis you do, you cannot escape the uncertainty of the future. When involved in business decisions, we must be seen as valued members of the team, scoring runs and making catches, rather than as armchair supporters explaining after the event how our team could have performed better.

We are not all cut out to be a Darren Gough or a Brian Lara, but our profession produces its fair share of business leaders who take risks to expand their business or their practice. We should hold these up as role models for our students and younger members and find ways of bringing the two groups together so that our leading entrepreneurs can help to inspire succeeding generations.



Michael Prior says accountants need a healthy risk appetite

The mission of the Institute's new Centre for Business Performance is to advance thinking and practice on performance enhancement and value creation and to encourage consideration of new ideas by entrepreneurs and others. Promoting successful entrepreneurship and developing the world-class business will lie at the heart of the centre's work.

We want to build on an earlier project that confirmed that clients want their external accountants to be business advisers as well as compliance experts. In addition, we wish to consider further how to identify the early-warning signals of a business entering dangerous waters. In the early years of many businesses, threats to its survival and opportunities for growth all too often go hand in hand unless there is effective cash management.

When providing business advice, we must recognise that the process of value creation and performance management has changed dramatically in recent years, driven by the growing importance of human and intellectual capital.

These assets may be invisible on many balance sheets, but they are very real nevertheless and need to be nurtured carefully if they are to reach their potential. Moreover, in seeking to improve sustainable performance, it will often be far better to focus on how revenue can be increased by better addressing customers' needs than continually to cut costs, long seen as the accountants' obsession.

Capturing value for the business, in this world of highly interactive relationships with customers, staff, suppliers and the wider community, now involves managing the business by reference to a wider range of financial and non-financial measures of performance than we used in the past.

Furthermore, as entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial advisers, we must see technology as a friend and enabler, as opposed to a threat to our traditional way of doing things. It is creating opportunities for new services, new means of selling existing ones, more efficient communications and new space-lean ways of working.

In today's world, time is of the essence. We must, therefore, embark on our new entrepreneurial journey now.

Michael Prior is chairman of the Centre for Business Performance of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and of the North Region of Kidsons Impey

Cold feet and self-interest mix to produce a classic muddle at the ICA

The article scheduled to run alongside the column this week was to have been unique. It was to have been written by all three of the English ICA officeholders: the president, Chris Swinson of BDO Stoy Hayward; deputy president Dame Sheila Masters of KPMG; and vice-president Graham Ward of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Given the considerable bulk of two of those there had been speculation that the size of photograph necessary would have meant no room for any text. In fact there is no text for another reason. Once more the council of the English institute has decided that it could not support its leadership. The key document *Strategy for the 21st Century* has now been delayed, possibly until the 22nd century.

It is a classic institute muddle and it demonstrates all the problems which bedevil a professional body. And it also shows how a combination of cold feet and self-interest can scupper plans. The document puts forward a strategy for dealing with members' interests. It deals with the cumbersome and confusing way that the institute deals with members through its district societies. And it deals with reform to the two groups dealing with general practitioners and members in business.

ROBERT BRUCE

The crucial document was item seven on last week's council agenda. The open and public section of the meeting was the shortest on record. Any interested member would have hardly sat down before being told to leave the chamber. And then council debated the strategy for more than three hours. Lunch, a prime consideration of a council day, came very late indeed. And it was a weary body of accountants who sat down to it. Weariest of all were the three officeholders.

After all, council had approved the plan in February. It had approved its implementation in March. All it had to do last week was approve the paper that was to go off to members explaining the strategy. And that was where the cold feet came in. The plan was to make the district societies self-financing, free-standing and answerable to members. That, of course, is code for members funding the district societies themselves. They are funded by local efforts and a tranche from institute funds. They vary in quality, enthusiasm and achievement. The institute management feels that there is "a need to encourage improvement of performance". And that is code for some going bust if they don't come up to scratch and manage to finance themselves. In the past there has been little direction. District societies would complain that it was all the fault of central funding and planning if things were going wrong and exult that it was all due to their wonderful autonomy if things were going swimmingly.

Something has needed to be done for years. But the institute is terrified of its members. Whenever the institute suggests anything, members sink their teeth into the hand that feeds them. So reform had been shelved. Now the three officeholders felt strong and committed enough to go for change. Hence the document.

There is logic in it, which is why council agreed it earlier in the year. But, as word of its contents leaked out to the rank and file, they became furious and, in the words of one senior council member, "freaked out". A succession of council members were hauled back to their district societies to be asked how they could possibly have agreed to the document. Most of the council members decided the safest route was to take the "it wasn't me" line.

Hence the defeat for the officeholders at last week's meeting. But even at the eleventh-hour the officeholders should have won the day. But, unfortunately, it was Dame Sheila Masters who led the debate. "She does," said one council member, "have an ability to infuriate people. Several people who started the debate as waverers had become total opponents half an hour later."

At the end of the month there is a residential conference of senior district society people. It will all be spelt out again. But there will have to be a lot of emollient behaviour if the strategy is to continue. Meanwhile, morale in the institute is predictably low. The announcement that yet another troupe of consultants has arrived on the premises to decide what is to be done about the "brand" of chartered accountants has not improved things. What is needed is for someone to decide that if inaction is what members want then that is what they should have.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Queen Street sell-out beckons

THE English ICA members may be up in arms over the possible dismantling of their district societies. However, no one is sure what will happen next north of the border.

Members of the Scots ICA are about to hear that it has decided that, after 107 years in their great and grey headquarters in Queen Street, Edinburgh, they should sell it and build afresh elsewhere. A muddy site has been acquired near the Haymarket railway station and work will begin soon.

The good news is that it is closer to the Murrayfield rugby ground. The bad news is that it will be next door to the Inland Revenue. But the clincher for Scottish members will probably be that the move will cost them nothing at all, financially that is.

Robin the rich

IT IS only a few weeks ago that Robin Cook-Hurle, as he puts it, "trousered" several million pounds by selling the Taxsoft business he founded to Sage, that giant of the accounting software business.

He stayed on as chap in charge, keeping contacts happy and expertise intact. But then last Thursday he cleared his desk "happily and amicably". As happens to such entrepreneurs, he had found, as the euphemism goes, that it is difficult working for someone else.

Taxing times

THE global spat between the two warring chunks of the Arthur Andersen empire grows more bizarre by the day.

As the dispute grinds slowly through the arbitration process, the war of words has grown. Andersen Consulting has been making gruff and belligerent noises about how its dastardly one-time accounting twin, Arthur Andersen, has started to dare to compete in the consulting market.

But now Andersen may itself have a complaint about Andersen Consulting opening up a competing line of service. Rumour has it that Andersen Consulting is opening up a tax practice.

ROBERT BRUCE

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AGM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 478 0180				
Short Dtd Gilt	139.80	141.30	- 0.10	
UC Govt Bd (US$)	0.8496	0.8584		
Gilt Income	55.41	56.27†	- 0.06	5.40
Gilt Growth	101.50	103.20	- 0.10	
Sterling Bond	56.41	57.41	- 0.06	5.50
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7666				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	149.08	158.87		
-do- NAV to Jun 19	145.58	145.58		
UK Equity Safeguard	119.46	127.77	- 0.27	2.80
-do- NAV to Mar 19	116.050	116.0506		
US Eqy Safeguard	98.82	104.95	- 0.59	
Cash	957.65	962.44	..	4.50
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	462.25	488.98	- 0.83	1.05
UK Small Cos	98.73	103.45	+ 0.13	0.31
FTSE 250 Index	113.91	121.82	+ 0.88	1.70
Geared UK Index	#26.130	#27.574†	+ 0.05	4.00
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.37	91.24	- 0.08	5.12
Monthly Inc	44.16	47.22†	+ 0.37	7.59
International Funds				
American Gen	407.67	430.90	- 3.37	...
American Strat	182.85	195.14	- 1.78	
JG US Index	#31.963	#33.864	- 0.27	4.50
European Gen	452.56	478.46	- 1.18	0.08
European Strat	217.66	232.71	- 1.72	
Japan Gen	131.12	137.78	+ 1.57	
Asia Pacific	70.61	75.47	- 0.02	1.49
Pacific Strat	99.69	106.62	- 0.83	
Greater China	178.42	190.83	- 0.86	..
Latin America	72.91	77.97	- 0.54	
Intl Growth	208.82	222.59	- 1.31	
Balanced Exempt	187.01	193.79		
Global Strategy	51.47	55.04	0.38	
AXA SUN LIFE FUND MGRS LTD				
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0890				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	88.75	94.41	+ 1.34	1.34
Balanced Inc	79.50	84.57	+ 0.19	1.34
Gilt Exempt	142.80	151.90	+ 0.40	1.39
Brit Friendly Acc	170.00	180.80		3.97
Brit Friendly Inc	105.40	112.10		3.97
Europe	587.70	625.30†	- 0.50	0.50
General Acc	1059.00	1126.00†	+ 3.00	1.46
General Inc	841.40	894.60†	+ 2.60	1.46
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	270.70	285.90†	- 0.60	6.85
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	105.10	111.00†	- 0.20	6.85
Global Opps	145.90	155.20	+ 0.30	0.47
Higher Inc Acc #	106.10	...	+ 0.50	3.43
Higher Inc Inc #	106.10		+ 0.50	3.43
Japan Acc	41.26	43.90	+ 0.90	
Nth America	586.30	623.70	- 6.30	0.02
Pac Basin Acc	307.60	327.20	0.70	1.21
UK Growth Acc	727.00	773.40	+ 2.40	1.38
UK Growth Inc	450.30	479.10	+ 1.50	1.38
AXA Sun Life Trusts				
Discretionary	72.19	76.80	+ 0.63	
Extra Inc Inc #	103.40		+ 0.20	6.33
High Yld Inc	125.90	134.00†		2.46
Inc & Gth Inc	127.70	135.40		1.65
Pacific Grth Port	37.72	40.13†	- 0.01	0.52
UK Income Inc	90.47	96.14		1.76
UK Smaller Cos ‡	106.90		- 0.60	2.38
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	256.00	269.50	- 0.30	0.91
UK Growth	333.20	350.90	+ 0.70	0.96
UK Income	216.80	228.70†	+ 0.90	2.59
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	347.70	368.50	+ 0.10	0.91
-do- Income Dist	189.40	200.70	+ 0.30	2.46
-do- Accum	652.00	691.10	+ 1.10	2.46
Gilt & Fxd Int	48.05	50.49	- 0.15	4.30
Growth Units	418.80	446.70	+ 0.20	1.05
Bond	204.30	215.30†	- 0.40	5.10
Intl Growth	294.20	312.50		0.10
North American	464.00	492.40	- 2.10	
Far East	194.90	208.40	+ 1.30	0.83
UK Smaller Cos	298.50	319.20	+ 0.70	1.06
European	144.50	153.40	+ 0.30	0.13
Japanese Growth	35.24	37.35†	+ 0.34	
High Income	325.60	348.30†	+ 0.50	2.52
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	394.60	417.40†	- 0.30	
European Inc	157.60	167.00	- 1.10	0.37
Smaller Cos (4-1)	122.00	129.80†	+ 0.60	1.88
Growth	811.70	863.60†	+ 1.60	0.97
Income & Growth #	646.50	687.80	+ 3.10	3.59
-do- Accum #	1071.30	1139.70	+ 5.00	3.59
Japan & Gen	64.08	67.73†	+ 0.27	
Halewood Grth	1834.00	1911.00†	- 5.00	0.81
-do- Accum	2343.00	2441.00	- 6.00	0.81
Special Sits	186.40	198.30	- 0.30	1.00
High Yield	2123.00	2189.00	+ 11.00	3.10
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	131.17	139.42	- 0.14	1.66
American Portfolio	211.16	223.56	- 3.26	0.37
European Portfolio	225.17	239.24†	+ 1.46	0.27
High Income	59.83	63.04	- 0.16	5.92
Japanese Portfolio	58.11	61.42†	+ 0.82	..
Pacific Portfolio	117.38	125.84	+ 0.56	1.24
UK Equity	133.65	142.40†	+ 0.16	2.02
UK Equity & Bd	76.40	80.96	+ 0.09	3.77
UK Smlr Cos	55.17	59.01†	+ 0.33	1.57
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1126.65	1152.81	+ 18.27	3.02
Inv Fd Acc	1220.73	1238.67	+ 19.64	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	177.83	178.56	+ 1.38	7.17
Fxd Int Sec Acc	208.49	209.33	+ 1.49	
Property Fund	99.05	102.37	+ 0.62	6.00
CGU TRUST MGRS LTD				
Info/Dlng 0845 6072438 Cust Enq 0845 6072439				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	270.54	281.84†	+ 1.40	3.09
Long Gilt	60.15	62.61†	- 0.29	4.27
Monthly Inc Plus	64.74	67.44†	- 0.09	6.64
-do- Accum	84.50	88.03	- 0.12	6.64
Preference Share	64.34	67.03†	- 0.02	4.65
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	196.89	205.11†	- 0.02	3.95
Managed Fund	103.59	107.92†	- 0.30	1.83
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	49.81	51.89†	+ 0.16	0.97

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
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Shares consolidate gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Alfred Brendel on the glory of Beethoven
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Bernstein's Candide staged at the National
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CINEMA: As Tony Harrison's couplets hit the big screen, **Geoff Brown** muses on the marriage of stanzas and celluloid

Poetry in motion pictures

So what is on the movie menu this week? Would you believe a snooty Greek god touring Yorkshire and Eastern Europe spouting rhyming couplets along with a wheezing ex-miner, lungs lost to coal dust and fags? "How can Olympus stay intact," the god sneers, "if poetry comes to Pontefract?"

Not just Pontefract. In Tony Harrison's *Prometheus* (see review, right) modern poetry could actually be coming to a cinema near you. Harrison's other "film poems", 12 in number, have been made for the BBC and Channel 4. This is the first shaped for the cinema: an overlong but striking piece that muses bitterly on the recent experience of the working class and mankind's abuse of the gift of fire as the new millennium beckons.

The couplets are delivered with a haughty sneer by Prometheus's voice on earth. Michael Feast: "And why, you might ask, should gods come/ into this world of 'Ee-by-gum'?" For Harrison, there is no alternative. His mission is to bring the poetic muse into every corner of life, from the theatres where plays like *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus* are performed to cinema screens and the amazed mouth of Walter Sparrow's old-time miner ("Them Tories twisting and two-timing . . . /Tha's got me at it, bloody rhyming").

But how fruitful is cinema as a vehicle for poetry? The published text of *Prometheus* includes selections from Harrison's notebooks, headed by a sweeping remark of the Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini: "To make films is to be a poet." Is James Cameron, then, the Milton of the age? I don't think so; though a broad distinction between prose and poetry can be useful in separating off the commercial aspirations of mainstream cinema from the personal approach of those dedicated to film as an art — the Tarkovskys and Bergmans who sculpt their images the way a poet shapes words.

Harrison's notes give only random consideration to marriages past, present and future between poetry and cinema. Perhaps, in honour of *Prometheus*, we can dig a little further. Most obviously, we may note some famous films about poets: *Tom and Viv*, for instance, which tenderly chronicled the marriage of the Eliots; *Regeneration*, a powerful screen adaptation of Pat Barker's novel about Siegfried Sassoon's rehabilitation after his First World War experiences; and, on a lighter note, *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, charting the courtship of Elizabeth Barrett by Robert Browning.

But such films are more concerned with recalling poets' loves and lives than interacting with their words. When it comes to the latter, there seem to be three principal degrees of union. The most tangential, though the most popular with the public, is the quotation of verse by a film's characters.

As Tony Harrison's miner says: 'Tha's got me at it, bloody rhyming'

W.H. Auden's poems found a new lease of life once *Stop All The Clocks* was quoted in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Robin Williams awoke his classroom charges (and, one suspects, some cinema audiences) to the hitherto closed book of English literature by declaiming some choice stanzas in *Dead Poets Society*, and in the recent *Pleasantville* the discovery of Wordsworth by repressed teenagers trapped in a 1950s sitcom is one of the catalysts that changes their world.

Going further back, John Pudney's tender salute to wartime pilots, *For Johnny*, spoken by John Mills, added crucial emotional colouring to the 1945 film *The Way to the Stars*. Even now, a transmission on TV prompts letters requesting the poem's title. The use of poetry gives such films pause, allowing, in Wordsworth's words, for "emotion recollected in tranquillity".

The next kind of amalgamation occurs when a film uses existing poetry as a springboard for material. Shakespeare, of course, in love or otherwise, and other verse dramatists. But there are many other examples squirrelled away in history, even in Hollywood. *Gunga Din* of 1939 takes its cue from Rudyard Kipling. Robert Wise's taut boxing drama of 1949, *The Set-Up*, uses a verse narrative by Joseph Moncure March. *The White Cliffs of Dover*, gruesome MGM wartime fluff, derives from Alice Duer Miller's epic doggerel.

Such films draw only on the poem's storyline. Unless one is Derek Jarman, turning Shakespeare sonnets into *Angelic Conversations*, the business of mixing a poem's stylistic substance with the matter of cinema is usually beyond their makers' grasp or ambition.

But the fun only starts when poet and film-maker look underneath any surface narrative and try fusing the art forms, perhaps mixing poetic metres with the rhythm of film editing. Early in the century, particularly, poets themselves quickly appreciated the new medium's potential for creative expression. In America Vachel Lindsay wrote a pioneering study, "The Art of the Moving Picture", linking film to Egyptian hieroglyphics.

The poets who really got carried away by cinema, however, lived in France. Surrealist spirits like Robert Desnos and Philippe Soupault contrived film scenarios deliriously alive to cinema's potential for bizarre juxtapositions, the logic of dreams.

In Britain, by contrast, film poetry led a humbler life, often tethered to the documentary and the sponsored short. Was Auden's heart truly stirred in the 1930s by writing scripts for the GPO Film Unit about coal-mining and night mail trains? Still, he dutifully wrote his verse, lyrical or incantatory, carefully cut to the images, matched to music composed by Britten. Later, Humphrey Jennings offered a poet's view of Britain at war through miraculous fusions of word, image and sound. In America, the emerging underground cinema of the 1940s and 1950s gave film poets a wider playground, ideal for the creation of sexual psycho-dramas decked with symbols, very much shot in the first person singular.

But those were and remain films for the ghetto. *Prometheus* hopes to reach the general audience, though timid exhibitors will no doubt restrict its chances. In the light of history, Harrison's union of poetry and cinema is comparatively plain. Words and images run side by side but avoid any fancy dance steps.

Perhaps on reflection this is just as well. Narrative cinema is a public art, which needs a projector, a screen and a full house to flourish. The best of poetry needs an armchair, a reader's eyes and imagination, and a pool of silence. These are things not often available at the Odeon.

Iron maidens: daughters of the ocean do their thing in *Prometheus* as Tony Harrison pursues his mission to bring the poetic muse into every corner of life

Excellent Queen Bess

NEW RELEASES ON VIDEO

■ **ELIZABETH**
PolyGram, 15, 1998
THE British costume drama gets a vigorous kick in the pants in Shekhar Kapur's bold and award-winning account of the reign of Elizabeth I. Aussie actress Cate Blanchett tackles the main role with aplomb, growing through her scenes from an uncertain young woman yanked on to the throne into a formidable creature too aware of her qualities to be governed by any man. Geoffrey Rush heads the supporting cast as Sir Francis Walsingham, man of mystery; Christopher Eccleston and Fanny Ardant also make strong impressions. Available to rent.

Cate Blanchett makes a winning Elizabeth I

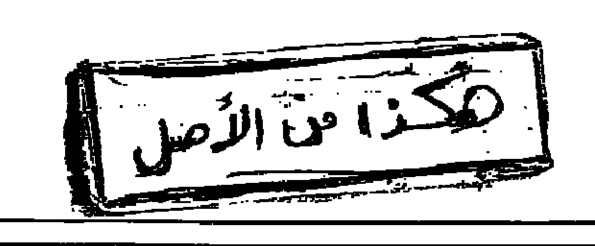
■ **ACCATTONE**
Tartan, 15, 1961
AFTER a decade as novelist, poet and scriptwriter, Pier Paolo Pasolini made his directorial mark with this rough-edged but powerful drama about a pimp's self-destruction in the squalid suburbs of Rome. Superficially, the style may suggest Italy's postwar neo-realism; but the jagged editing, the almost fetishistic worship of lead actor Franco Citti, and the soundtrack's blasts of Bach all point the way towards the expressive devices of the mature Pasolini films that followed. A welcome release.

■ **DICK TRACY**
Touchstone DVD, PG, 1990
IN THE DVD format, the bold comic-strip colours of Warren Beatty's film almost burn the eyes. Danny Elfman's music and Madonna's rendition of Stephen Sondheim's songs soar out of the soundtrack; Al Pacino hits the high decibels too with his outrageous turn as Big Boy Caprice. Beatty's overly laid-back performance as detective Tracy somewhat chills the fun, although as a stylised blockbuster the film still shows more spunk and imagination than the *Batman* movies from the same era (also now available on DVD). Give it a whirl.

■ **POODLE SPRINGS**
Mosaic, 12, 1998
A PHONE call from a fellow private eye ends in gunshots. The next thing you know, Philip Marlowe (James Caan, well-cast) is being arrested for obstructing justice and being "stupider than three sheep". Tom Stoppard wrote the script for this cable TV adaptation of Raymond Chandler's unfinished novel, although he never jumps over the plot's main hurdle: how can we believe that this world-weary private eye has got himself married to a billionaire's daughter? A rental release.

■ **THE SPANISH PRISONER**
Fox Pathé, 15, 1997
AS SOMEONE says during this teasing entertainment, "Who in the world is what they seem?" Campbell Scott's scientist, inventor of a valuable new industrial process, is a sitting duck for a con trick, and writer-director David Mamet is just the man to spring one. This is a spry Hitchcockian thriller with an impressive performance from Steve Martin as a jet-setter, and a classy turn from Rebecca Pidgeon as the Girl Friday who might, like everyone else, not be quite what she seems. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN



An update deserving of an Oscar

NEW MOVIES: Rupert Everett plus the wisdom of *An Ideal Husband* equals hit, says **James Christopher**

Big heritage films are what the British do best. At least, that's the view across the pond, and there's been little to obscure it recently. We have a past worth plundering, bundles of supremely good (and cheap) actors, and, just occasionally, the wit to give our costume extravaganzas a topical spin. Oliver Parker's reworking of Oscar Wilde's **An Ideal Husband** fulfils the brief to perfection. There has, of course, been major plastic surgery. Pages of delightful but superfluous twaddle have been liposuctioned. Several characters are sporting facelifts. And the heart of the play has a new comic pacemaker. His name is Rupert Everett, and he plays Oscar Wilde's alter-ego, Lord Goring, with indecent charm.

It's Everett's frivolous Goring who has to sort out the scandal that threatens to ruin his best friends. Jeremy Northam's twinkling politician, Sir Robert Chiltern, is the ideal husband with brilliant prospects. His beloved wife Gertrude (Cate Blanchett) is besotted with his virtues.

It's at one of their glittering parties that Julianne Moore's shameless blackmailer breezes in with dirty evidence of a state secret Northam sold to make himself a millionaire. Northam must either throw the Government behind Moore's fraudulent business scheme in Argentina, or risk losing wife, career and, possibly, freedom.

Parker's film has frothy touches of *Shakespeare in Love*, but the issues are sharper. For all the fun the film has at the expense of political and romantic hypocrisy, it clearly hasn't gone out of fashion since Wilde penned the play more than a hundred years ago. *An Ideal Husband* is everything you would expect in a contemporary potboiler: sleaze in high places and power-plays between the sexes. Passions and egos are barely repressed by starched shirts and delicately powdered cleavages. The camera rubbernecks its way around the ballrooms and drawing rooms of the rich and privileged, panning over miles of silk taffeta, alighting on loaded snippets of conversation that inexorably nudge Northam's shame into the open.

> **An Ideal Husband**
> UCI Whiteleys
> PG, 95 mins
> *Sumptuous homage to Wilde's ever-fashionable play*
>
> **Happiness**
> Virgin Haymarket
> 18, 140 mins
> *Poisonous black comedy about "happy" New Yorkers*
>
> **Return to Paradise**
> Warner Village West End, 15, 111 mins
> *American buddies go mad in Malaysia*
>
> **Prometheus**
> Notting Hill Coronet
> 15, 129 mins
> *Tony Harrison's dense, awesome film-poem*
>
> **Actresses**
> ICA 15, 113 mins
> *Stage jealousies scrutinised*

Blanchett throbs and hums with righteous indignation. Northam has the priceless gift of being able to express a drastic emotional change with little more than a shift of the eyeballs. A cast of practised old hands helps to stir the pot further. Simon Russell Beale's newspaper editor creeps after Northam and the scheming Moore like an oil slick. But it's Everett's Goring, the most underestimated and humane of Wilde's gallery of wits, who steals the film. He hides his loyalties and his tolerance under airy nothings. Flashing looks of camp alarm, deadpanning lusty socialites, or glaring at himself in mirrors, he contrives to seem as useless and self-centred as he is comically saintly. "To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance," he declares to his crusty retainer (Peter Vaughan). His unexpected acts of wily generosity seem more like comic accidents than charity aforethought.

Purists will claim that Wilde has been foully interfered with. They're right, of course. The smalltalk has been sanded down to aphorisms, slights, innuendoes, faux pas and putdowns. The romantic comedy has been cranked up, the melodrama tightened, and there's a preposterous piece of heroic grandstanding by Northam in the House of Commons. But the film is never less than fair to the unsettling modernity of the original. Enjoy.

Wilde's message of tolerance would be lost on Todd Solondz's poisonous but gripping black comedy, **Happiness**. It's one of the most powerful films about dismal relationships I've seen this year, and at some points it requires a strong stomach.

Stitched loosely around the lives of three sisters, their parents and their partners, the film asks the simple question, what is happiness? The simple answer is that it's not here. The aches are familiar: loneliness, desire, alienation, a struggle to connect. How Solondz's misfits go about curing them is a hollow, mucky business that is both extremely funny and ghastly.

In his sleazy apartment, Philip Seymour Hoffman's Billy Bunter-esque loner pants over magazines and ploughs through the phone book making obscene calls. Jane Adams's 30-year-old dreamer, Joy, seems destined to be cornered by suicidally sincere and vastly ugly dates. Her beautiful older sister Helen (Lara Flynn Boyle), a successful poet and even more wildly successful in bed, is consumed by self-loathing. Middle sister Trish (Cynthia Stevenson) is so keen to advertise her perfect family that she fails to notice that her perfectly nice psychiatrist husband Bill (Dylan Baker, superb) can only find happiness by raping his 11-year-old son's best friends. This is the darkest corner of the film, but it's also the most nakedly revealing, based as it is around Bill's genuinely loving relationship with his son.

These urban scenarios impose on each other like bad breath. There are pauses that would make Harold Pinter squirm with unease, and more incidental twists than an old-fashioned whodunit. Most unnerving is the eerie sense of calm. Solondz's film isn't as savagely manipulative as Neil Labute's withering sex-comedy *Your Friends & Neighbors*, but the bite is equally deep. The only weakness is that Solondz's editing lacks a killer instinct. The result is that the film is overlong and slightly portentous. The flip side is a genuine sense of messy lives and ugly imponderables.

Equally grim, but utterly humourless, is Joseph Ruben's crisis of conscience thriller **Return to Paradise**, based on the 1989 French film *Force Majeure*. The opening 15 minutes is an exhilarating medley of snapshot scenes showing three American buddies playing fast and loose with prostitutes and drugs on a holiday in Malaysia. Vince Vaughn and David Conrad drop their slab of hashish in the trash, wave goodbye to Joaquin Phoenix, and head back to New York. Two years later, Vaughn, a limousine driver, and Conrad, a structural engineer, are doorstepped by a lawyer (Anne Heche) and told that Phoenix has been rotting in Penang jail, charged with possession of the drugs that they dumped. Unless the boys return to do their share of the punishment — three years apiece in prison, or six if only one comes back — then Phoenix will hang the next week.

The hairy moral conundrum is exacerbated by Heche at her most intense and seductive. What follows is a monumental piece of arm-twisting, a fitfully troubling invitation to share the incarcerated joys of *Midnight Express*. Conrad grasps the moral nettle. Vaughn, with no morals to speak of but plenty of marbles, won't be budged. Ruben directs the film as if he were possessed by the spirit of Jeremy Paxman: What! No *moral* spine? The tension curdles into hand-wringing tedium. As if to alleviate the paralysis that settles over the film, Heche and Vaughn, her co-star in the remake of *Psycho*, embark on a corny romance. The subsequent twists just get cornier.

They are nothing compared to the surreal leaps in Tony Harrison's extraordinary film-poem, **Prometheus**. It's a dense work of genius and, at more than two hours and 86 pages, grindingly hard work at that. The saving grace is the fierce Northern vernacular and scathing irreverence of Harrison's verse. Inspired by *Bound* (and the lost *Prometheus Unbound*), Harrison has created a contemporary epic that links the plight of unemployed coal miners to the fate of the Titan who stole fire from Zeus and gave it to Man. What have we done with this mythic gift?

Zeus's slimy envoy, Hermes (Michael Feast), dressed in a camp silver catsuit, gives the cynical lowdown as he follows the progress of a 30ft golden statue of Prometheus, fist raised, as it's hauled by truck, via the death camp at Dresden, to the great smelting sites and scorched cities of Eastern Europe. The statue is shadowed by Fern Smith's Yorkshire Mum and cheered by Walter Sparrow's chain-smoking socialist. There is spectacular footage of enormous, panting cooling towers. Zeus knows what any of it means.

Aeschylus again is the inspiration for three Catalonian *grand dames* in Ventura Pons's static tribute to the stage, **Actresses**. They revive old jealousies when they remember how they did or didn't get the crucial part of Iphigenia in a famous teacher's last production. I can't think of anyone this film could possibly interest. It has the dramatic momentum of a slug.

LINKS

WEBSITES:
An Ideal Husband: www.pathe.com
Return To Paradise: www.return2paradise.com
Happiness: www.happinessthemovie.com

TELEVISION:
Film '99 With Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday 11.05pm
Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday 9pm

RADIO:
Talking Pictures, Radio 4, 5.30pm



Eminent Victorians: a sparkling Rupert Everett goes for bust as Lord Goring in Oliver Parker's reworking of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

ARTS

■ LISTINGS
Scottish Ballet in Glasgow

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

THE DISPUTE: A superb production by Neil Bartlett of his translation of Marivaux where four imprisoned adolescents meet the world and each other for the first time. A co-production with the RSC.
Lyric, W6 (0181-741 2311) Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Monday, 7.30pm.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas the LSO puts on a programme with the opening accent on American music. After Ives's The Unanswered Question and Evocations, a work by the one-time avant-gardist Carl Ruggles, the orchestra gets to grips with Bruckner's massive Ninth Symphony.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

MAURIZIO POLLINI: The technically brilliant pianist turns his attention to Schubert as he tackles the composer's three last sonatas. The recital is part of the Harrods International Piano Series
Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

GEOMETRY OF MIRACLES: In Robert Lepage's latest spectacle Frank Lloyd Wright discovers the spiritual teachings of Gurdjieff. A somewhat muddled evening.
Lyttelton (0171-452 3000). Opens tonight, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE:

GLASGOW: Scottish Ballet opens its spring season with the world premiere of night LiFe (sic), a new work by Tim Rushton set to the music of Bach. Designs are by the ubiquitous Lez Brotherston, who collaborates with the inventive choreographer for the first time.
Theatre Royal (0141-332 9000). Opens tonight, 7.15pm.


Michael Tilson Thomas conducts at the Barbican

LEEDS: Natasha Betteridge directs Kes, Lawrence Till's adaptation of Barry Hines's moving tale of the boy who finds inspiration nurturing a baby kestrel.
Quarry (0113-213 7700). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

PLYMOUTH: Staging here of Candida, Shaw's version of the conflict between the artistic temperament and married love.
Drum (01752 267222). Previews tonight, 7.45pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.45pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER:** Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in the famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs.
Comedy (0171-369 1731).

◪ **CANDIDE:** Great songs in Bernstein's musical drawn from Voltaire. John Caird and Trevor Nunn direct an excellent cast led by Daniel Evans, Alex Kelly and Simon Russell Beale. See review, page 39.
Olivier (0171-452 3000).

■ **MAMMA MIA!:** Musical based on the songs of Abba: Siobhan McCarthy and Lisa Stokke play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs.
Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

□ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer winner.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

□ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

■ **GOOD:** C.P. Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar (0171-369 1732)

□ **THE COLONEL BIRD:** Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the lunatics. Rupert Gould directs.
Gate (0171-229 0706).

□ **BLOOD KNOT:** Barry Wallman and Gordon Case star in Athol Fugard's updated version of his celebrated black and white brothers play.
Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111).

□ **TALES OF A CITY:** Life after a catastrophe, told as a mixture of dreams and memories by Macedonian writer Goran Stevanovski. Sandy Maberley directs for Theatre Melange.
Warehouse, Croydon (0181-680 4060).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

A CIVIL ACTION (15): Meaty courtroom drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in sparkling form as two sharks in a case about toxic dumping. Steven Zaillian directs.

BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15): Playful romantic comedy about male bonding with Simon Callow splendidly miscast as a heterosexual New Age Svengali. Rose Troche directs.

NO (15): Robert Lepage's supple, black comedy forms a psychedelic chain of coincidences between a Canadian actress and her bomb-making boyfriend. A teasing puzzle about politics and art.

THE FACULTY (15): Fishy sci-fi chiller with high comedy quota from Kevin Williamson. A faculty of schoolteachers get taken over by alien squids from outer space. Director Robert Rodriguez flogs the creeping paranoia with seat-clutching wit.

SLAM (15): Saul Williams puts in a sensational performance as a black rap poet caught up in the Washington prison system. A gritty documentary-style film by Marc Levin.

HIGH ART (18): Ally Sheedy and Radha Mitchell spread lesbian gloom and doom in an upmarket photographic magazine. Drugs, decadence, and Fassbinder fail to illuminate Lisa Cholodenko's constipated melodrama.

ORGAZMO (18): Tube station elevators are more exciting than this ghastly cartoon spoof on the Hollywood porn industry. Trey Parker writes, directs, and stars.

CURRENT

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of dry humour illuminate Zeffirelli's tribute to the English spinsters who raised him in Florence before Mussolini jailed them. With Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jake Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler is mildly amusing if you like being mugged. With Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): An ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. Bill Kelly directs.

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): Charles Laughton's only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unforgettable.

■ CLASSICAL CDS
A splendid Walton series

Why I return to Beethoven

MUSIC: Alfred Brendel tells **Barry Millington** why he has recorded the piano concertos for the fourth time


Benchmark of musical quality: Brendel's final recording of the Beethoven piano concertos is also his first ever with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

For the fourth, and what he claims will be the last time, Alfred Brendel has tackled on record that formidable mountain range of the piano repertoire, the Beethoven concertos. The box set, just released by Philips, with the Vienna Philharmonic under Simon Rattle, certainly has all the makings of a definitive reading. Brendel's previous recordings included those with Haitink and Levine, but there is no disguising the special rapport that has evolved between him and Rattle over the past 20 years. It has now borne fruit in what Costa Pilavachi, president of Philips, describes as "one of the few recording projects that happened because it needed to happen".

The relationship with Rattle was "always a happy one", according to Brendel, "but the mutual understanding is now much greater and also the possibility to express things together". Brendel points out that Rattle now has much more experience in the Austro-German repertoire: "I was sometimes worried in the past that he conducted so many things that were not first class, and I am glad that over the past year he has focused more on the music that I think is in the centre of the repertoire."

To see Brendel and Rattle interacting in rehearsal in Vienna's Musikverein is to see two contrasting intelligences seeking common ground. "Do you mind if I take more time here?" Rattle asks. "No — as long as it's not too excessive," comes the reply. Good-natured banter of this sort demonstrates not only the high spirits of the performers but also how they confound expectation. When I observe that the conductor's thrust in conjunction with the pianist's reflectiveness gives rise to a creative tension, Brendel insists that "some of the thrusting forward is my doing — and he also can linger. I can tell you."

Nowhere are such modifications of the basic tempo more crucial than in the Fourth Concerto, where Brendel is convinced they have set down the finest of which they are capable. "The first movement needs that flexibility; it's so different from other first movements Beethoven wrote. I cannot find another example where you get three episodes which only come once, which are never repeated, like glimpses into a different world. They have to be incorporated, and you cannot incorporate them if you go straight forward." That means slowing up? "Yes. I am looking for psychological time not metronomical time."

That flexibility is not something that can easily be taught. In fact, according to Brendel, younger players tend to keep stricter time, but "gradually learn to modify the tempo, hopefully without losing the necessary pulse. The pulse is like the heartbeat, which can stand a certain amount of elasticity. There is very rarely a rupture or a new start in Beethoven's music."

Such tempo modification in these performances is very subtle, so much so that one hardly notices it. "Well, that's how it should be," Brendel says.

Brendel's relationship with the Vienna Philharmonic goes back to 1955. But curiously they have never recorded together before, though the orchestra has made amends by appointing Brendel an honorary member. What he values above all with this elite band is the "continuity of timbre" arising from players being recruited locally and studying with orchestra principals.

This leads to a discussion of period instruments, from whose pungent asperities the honeyed opulence of the VPO could not be further. "When I hear a period orchestra I usually find the violins not expressive, not dynamic enough, for what they have to say — for how important they are in the score." Nor does Brendel care much for period keyboard instruments: many things "cannot be fully realised on old instruments. They can be made more manifest on a modern instrument: in modern halls, modern instruments give a better balance in concertos. I still have to hear a Beethoven concerto on the hammerklavier that makes any sense, in terms of what you want to hear in the main voices."

For a man as hungry to experience contemporary music as Brendel, his repertoire may seem surprisingly limited. He says that he admires enormously those players who can read and remember modern scores, but they are "like a man coming from Mars, with different nerves, muscles and a brain totally unlike mine". He also alludes to a spinal problem that now prevents him from playing blockbusters such as the Liszt Sonata or even the Brahms concertos.

He is developing a productive relationship with the baritone Matthias Goerne, however. They are performing Schubert's *Winterreise* and *Schwanengesang* cycles in America this month, and bringing the former to London in May and to Edinburgh in August. Another new venture is chamber music with his 22-year-old cellist son Adrian. Performances of the two Mozart piano quartets are scheduled for New York and Chicago this month.

Limited though Brendel's repertoire may be these days, the pay-off is that there is no sharper intellect — allied to a quirky humour and a wide-ranging awareness of all things cultural — at large in the musical world today.

● *The Beethoven Concertos are on Philips 462 781-2 (3 CDs). £38.99*

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Seductive 18th-century soprano arias; spitfire Walton; and neglected Schubert partsongs

OPERA

■ **RUTH ANN SWENSON**
Endless Pleasure
Orch of the Age of Enlightenment/Mackerras
EMI 7243 5 56672 2 9
★ ★ *£15.99*

UNDER the discreet guidance of Sir Charles Mackerras EMI has put together a mixture of Handel and early Mozart for the American soprano Ruth Ann Swenson. Handel's *Semele* provides the excuse for a catchpenny title, in the aria where she sings of the joys above, courtesy of Jupiter who carries her off there. Pleasure is not endless, as Semele finds out, and the same is true of the Swenson recital. But it is certainly present in the opening and closing items.

Swenson's Semele is famous and she shows why in two arias as displaying that lady's hedonistic view of the world. *Myself I shall adore* is particularly fine, with Semele looking into a mirror and much liking what she sees there. The singing is cool and crisp, every note spot on. It is a useful enticement towards the ENO's first *Semele*, which opens on Monday.

She also shines in Guinia's aria from Mozart's *Lucio Silla*, the final item. In between the tension slackens and there is some lack of warmth in the voice. This is particularly so in Konstanze's great display of unhappiness from Mozart's *Entführung*. The notes are all there and the coloratura in perfect position. But the lady's broken heart is absent: most of that has to come from Mackerras and the OAE players.

JOHN HIGGINS

ORCHESTRAL

■ **WALTON**
Spitfire Prelude and Fugue; Sinfonia Concertante; Hindemith Variations
Donohoe/English Northern Phil/Daniel
Naxos 8.553869
★ ★ ★ *£4.99*

THE splendid Walton series on Naxos continues with another fine disc from the English Northern Philharmonia under Paul Daniel. The two most substantial works are from opposite ends of Walton's career: the Sinfonia Concertante (given in its original 1927 version) and the Variations on a Theme by Hindemith, completed in 1963. The outer movements of the former are typical examples of Walton in his irrepressibly glittering neo-classical mood of the 1920s, though the central Andante goes a little deeper. The Variations, by contrast, exhibit both "honest solidity of workmanship" (as Hindemith put it) and greater expressive range. The recording of both works is spacious and Daniel gets fine results from the orchestra, with Peter Donohoe the assured soloist in the Sinfonia Concertante.

Also included are two shorter pieces in Walton's rousing, imperial idiom: the *Spitfire Prelude and Fugue* and the *March for a History of the English Speaking Peoples*.

BARRY MILLINGTON

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

CHORAL

SCHUBERT
Nachtgesang
RIAS-Kammerchor/Creed
Harmonia Mundi HMC 901669 ★ ★ ★ *£15.99*

BETTER two years late than never. This is a recording which would have graced Schubert-year, but now it is perhaps cast into the more prominent relief it certainly deserves.

Thanks to the work of Graham Johnson in the Hyperion Schubert Edition, and to the likes of Singphoniker and the BBC Singers, the composer's bicentenary year drew attention to more than 100 secular partsongs and choruses which for too long had been overshadowed by Schubert's solo songs. A genre which started life as a pastime for Schubert's fellow students developed into a vehicle for some of his most intensely private thoughts and feelings. And nowhere more so than in the songs of night and darkness.

They are captured here by Berlin's superb RIAS Chamber Choir, directed by Marcus Creed. For the echoing horn-calls of *Nachtgesang im Walde* they are joined by the Scharoun Ensemble; an 1825 Viennese fortepiano sounds St Mark's midnight bell in *The Gondolier*, and tenor Werner Gura and alto Birgit Rennert are eloquent soloists in, respectively, *Light Night* and *Serenade*.

HILARY FINCH

★ *Worth hearing*
★ ★ *Worth considering*
★ ★ ★ *Worth buying*

■ **DANCE**
A fine Taiwanese debut

■ **TOMORROW**
New pop albums reviewed

Putting a fine Pangloss on wit

It is quite an *auto-da-fé*. Light reddens, smoke thickens. Watched by gravely incanting prelates in scarlet, the cast cheekily squawks and gleefully screeches, capering in a circle, as if offering us a depraved version of *Ring-a-Roses*. And finally, over the ashes of a pyramid of heretics, hangs the bunched body of Pangloss, prophet of optimism.

Ever since Leonard Bernstein and Lillian Hellman conceived the idea of a musical *Candide* in the mid-Fifties, hoping to assail an all-American cheeriness that seemed unaffected by the oppression of McCarthyism, productions of the show have by all accounts been getting less bland, more tough-minded; and, though it is sometimes too jokey for my taste, the revival that John Caird

THEATRE



has rescripted and himself directed gives us plenty of Voltaire's sardonic comedy and dry, wry outrage.

You could argue that if ever a satiric target has been peppered out of existence by time and circumstance, scientific discovery and philosophical scepticism, it is the notion that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds. Where there was once a glaring bull's-eye there is now just a gaping hole.

But the thrust of the production is less the fatuity of unthinking optimism, more the absurd and exotic forms that human cruelty, greed and injustice take. Witness the battle scenes, not to mention Pangloss's argument that war is a wonderful way of achieving tribal unity: *Candide* has dated less than the Enlightenment-era costumes suggest.

John Caird (who credits Trevor Nunn as assistant director in the programme) takes us from castles in Westphalia to casinos in Venice via the Lisbon earthquake, escape from the Inquisition and Eldorado, in the simplest, sparest way. Pretty well all that furnishes a shiny black circle is a series of chests, representing everything from boats to graves; but it is enough, especially with a cast capable of miming shipwreck, cannibal ritual and collective death on the syphilis ward in old Amsterdam.

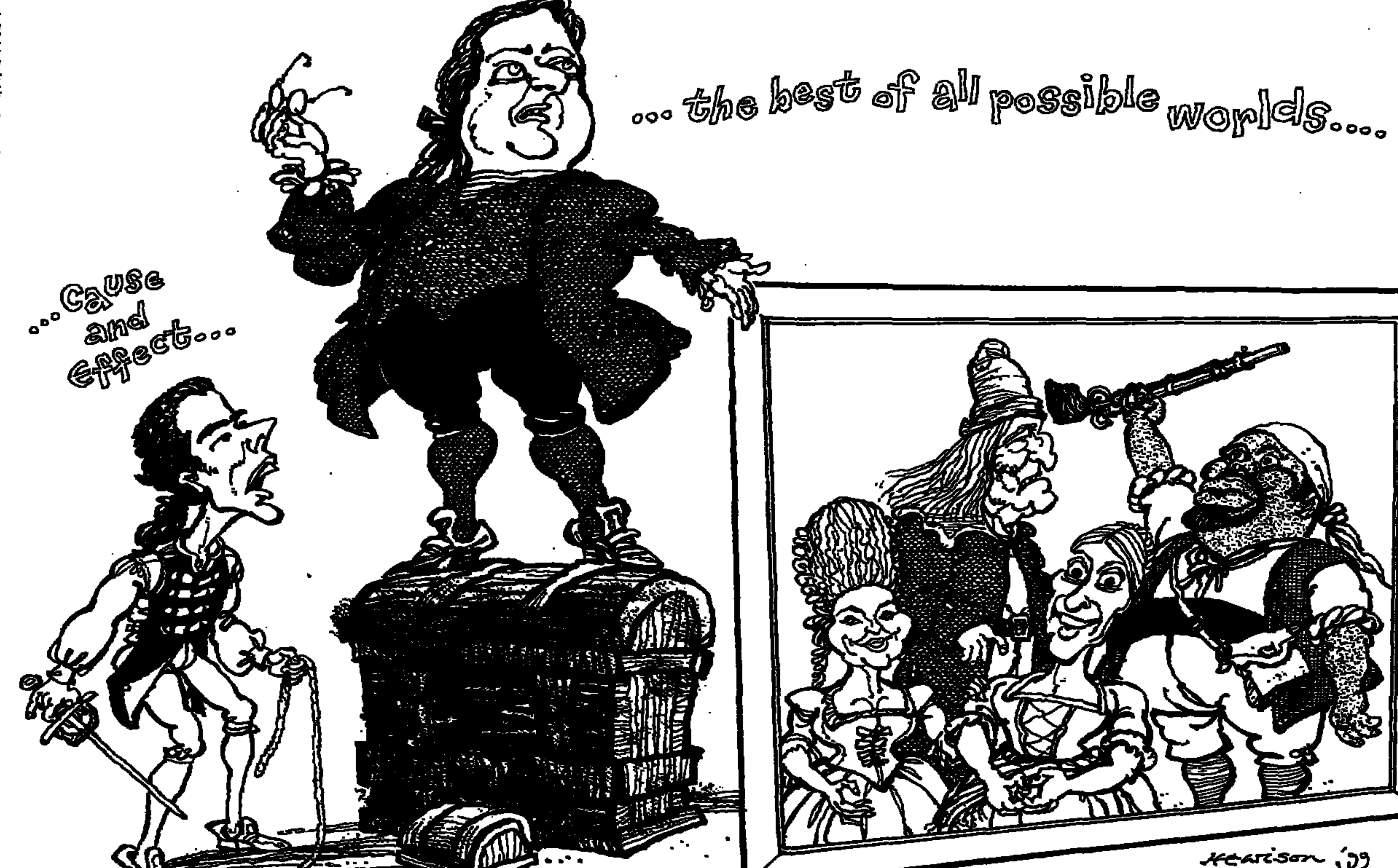
A pacey, picaresque story needs a narrator, and gets a fine one from Simon Russell Beale, who saunters the stage informing us of devastating evils in cool, incisive style. Then specs appear on his nose, his body sags into a sort of granny-knot, and it is Pangloss himself, desperately convincing himself of the beneficence of those ills. With Daniel Evans's touching Candide — all nervy, tentative vowels and tiny, bird-like jerks of the head — the performance sustains the evening.

There are other admirable ones from Simon Day and, as Candide's beloved Cunegonde, Alex Kelly. Indeed, Kelly performs marvels in terms both of disingenuous wit and high soprano notes with a bravura ode in which she piles pearls, diamonds and rouge on to herself while denouncing worldly treasure. Bernstein's score is never as hummable as his *West Side Story* and (the pessimistic *Words, Words, Words* is an exception) could use more Weill and less Sullivan and Puccini in its make-up; but it embraces tango, martial chorus, liturgical chant and much else.

Revisions since 1956 mean that seven people are credited as lyricists, among them Dorothy Parker, Richard Wilbur and even Stephen Sondheim, who has reportedly introduced several scathing new rhymes. The song in which a nob patronises the peasantry — "being well bred helps you deal with those who sell bread" — is surely his. But it is a pity that nobody put a stop to an ending which earnestly celebrates the virtues of gardening — but does not mention the disillusioning miseries of the domestic life and love that Candide has spent the evening seeking. That must await a still harsher, more Voltairean staging.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in late editions of* The Times *yesterday*



Six characters in search of Voltaire's best of all possible worlds: (from left) Daniel Evans, Simon Russell Beale, Alex Kelly, Denis Quilley, Beverley Klein and Clive Rowe

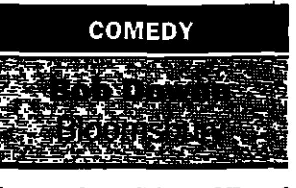
Hail the Aussie Adonis

If there is an art to singing badly, Bob Downe must count as one of the world's greats. Just when it seems he is going to get it right at last, the Australian king of easy listening can be relied on to gasp for breath in the wrong place or hit a note that is as garish as his many and varied safari suits.

In the wrong hands his *Million Sellers* show would amount to an extremely modest exercise in camp, ripe for a graveyard-hour series on Channel 5 but not much else. Anyone who caught quiz master Richard Whiteley's show in the same venue a while back will know exactly what I mean.

Fortunately, Downe's creator and alter ego, Mark Trevorrow, has woven a marvellously convincing character around the naff renditions of half-forgotten hits dredged up

COMEDY



from ancient editions of *Top of the Pops*. Ad libs blend effortlessly into the scripted monologues. Trevorrow, nestling under a helmet-like blond wig, veers cleverly between narcissism and dry self-deprecation.

The humour sagged only halfway through the second half when he allowed himself to be entangled in an untidy and superfluous round of slapstick with his "guest", Pastel Vespa, a supposedly half-Brazilian vocalist with a strong line in Astrud Gilberto impersonations. Her bizarre reworkings of the likes of *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick* were charming enough, but we did not need to hear quite so many of them to get the point.

Her duets with the Aussie Adonis were much more acutely observed. With the resourceful one-man band Bob Thorne supplying all the right light entertainment touches on the keyboard, they indulged in the sort of wholesome dance steps that have not been seen since the Young Generation parted company with Rolf Harris. Downe's showbiz smile gapes as wide as his flared shirt collars, until he begins to suspect that Pastel is upstaging him.

The last time he played in London he put on a sparkling show at the Talk of London cabaret venue. The wider spaces of the Bloomsbury did not intimidate him. His ego needs all the room it can get.

CLIVE DAVIS

Highest of the high art

Some way into his solo show, John-Paul Zaccarini leaps on to the Circus Space stage sporting a vast pompadour, tight jeans and a bump and grind dance routine. In his left hand is a hairbrush, actually a microphone, into which he delivers a little high-energy pop hymn to the joys of being gorgeous.

"I am nothing but spectacle," he sings, alluding to his adopted identity as a brainless himbo. For Zaccarini, this is a characteristic double bluff; *Throat* is constructed from a series of concealed identities, and in many ways it is also the central conceit of the show. Once one is aware of being a spectacle or conforming to some prescribed image, be it as a good-time boy, bored housewife or tragic child, how pure can that identity be?



Zaccarini's exploration of identity takes him from the adopted perfection of a daytime TV poseur to the anorexic narcissus vomiting out the water of his own reflection. The characterisations are engagingly and credibly established before descending into a Nigel Charnock-esque flurry of nervous verbal tics and physical gibberish. That there is also a whiff of Lloyd Newson in some of the choreography is hardly surprising; Zaccarini provided the aerial highlight of DV8's *Enter Achilles*.

Where previous themes are picked up, however, Zaccarini takes them a step further, both through the stunning physical bravery of his performance and the added dimension of aerial work. The terrestrial dance elements are precisely performed, beautifully choreographed and exciting to watch; Zaccarini thinks nothing of slamming himself face down on to the floor or switching from affective catharsis to sweet comedy at the least appropriate moments. Predictably it is the aerial work that steals the show, from the whorish showtime routine to the image of Zaccarini balancing in the tangle of a high rope in a shower of rain. Certainly these airborne episodes are startlingly beautiful, but they also exercise a strong visceral tug, tapping in to dreams of weightlessness and impossible grace.

Special effects are kept simple but powerfully elemental; an episode where a vast ball of dough is picked at until it becomes an oozing wound is particularly resonant. This is a fabulous piece of work, as passionately executed as it was beautifully conceived.

HETTIE JUDAH

Bored in Bath

GARRICK was not, apparently, impressed when in 1765 Frances Sheridan submitted her latest play, *A Trip to Bath*, for production at his Drury Lane theatre. He rejected it.

Frances's son, the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan, however, regarded his mother's work highly enough to produce handwritten copies of the play's first three acts, and to lift liberally from it for his own work, most notably for his enduring character, Mrs Malaprop. Since only Brinsley Sheridan's handwritten copies now survive, to bring Frances's last work to the stage as *The Whisperers* the actress Liz Kuti has "restored" it by adding three final scenes.

The play concerns the treachery of a season at Bath, where many have reputedly come to take the waters, but most are busily trying to forge marriages in which money can mingle with breeding. The only problem is that almost everyone involved is pretending to rank or fortune they do not possess. Chief

The Whisperers
Belltable, Limerick

among the pretenders are Lady Filmot (an enjoyably vampish Andrea Irvine) and Lord Stewkley (James Wallace), who callously plot the downfall of the innocents around them. Heiress Lucy Tryfort (Pauline Hutton) and equally gullible Edward Bull (Demian McAdam) are therefore in danger.

But for all the archaeological endeavour, there is no great sensation that we have been missing out on something marvellous. Frances's Mrs Tryfort (played here by Noelle Brown) may have been a prototype for Mrs Malaprop, but this version of the character never threatens to be as enduring as her son's. It seems to prove the old adage that when it comes to creativity, you don't have to be first, you just have to be best.

Kuti's fluency within the genre is impressive and those parts of the play that she owns have a drive and often a cynical flippancy which are hugely enjoyable. But *The Whisperers* still suffers from a first half numbingly dull enough to make sure nobody ever becomes acquainted with Kuti's writing.

The production never reconciles its duties to Mrs Sheridan's memory with those to contemporary audiences. Lynn Parker's direction could redress the imbalance between Kuti's sprightly contemporary dialogue and Frances's lumbering scene setting. Bell Helicopter's punches of bright, ironic music added a little velocity, but the production often seems too bogged down in the nitty-gritty of sight lines and stage business to get to any substantial reshaping, or to discover a short-cut to Bath.

LUKE CLANCY

Food for the soul

When Lin Hwai-min founded Cloud Gate Dance Theatre in Taiwan in 1973, contemporary dance was in its infancy in his country. Today, a quarter of a century later, his company can lay fair claim to being "Asia's leading contemporary dance theatre". By any standards Lin's troupe, which made its British debut at Sadler's Wells on Tuesday night, is a fine ensemble and his choreography is both accomplished and gripping, rigorous and committed, and not a little beautiful too.

Songs of the Wanderers, the 90-minute production which the Taiwanese bring to London, takes its dancers on a journey to spiritual enlightenment. It starts with a single standing monk, frozen in prayer and unblinking despite the stream of rice which rains down on his shaven head, gradually forming a mound at his feet. For the next 90 minutes he will not move — the ultimate ascetic on his own path to enlightenment.

He is joined on stage by 14 pilgrims raking the first tentative steps in what will be a long and arduous journey. A

DEE CONWAY



Premier Taiwanese export: Cloud Gate Dance Theatre

DANCE

Cloud Gate
Sadler's Wells

snaking pile of rice suggests a river, and soon the dancers are diving into it like eager supplicants into holy water. Before they are through, the stage will be covered in more than three tons of rice, which has been washed, dried and dyed saffron yellow. In one gloriously eloquent setting, rice transforms the stage into a shimmering night-time desert, its sands scored by the tracks of an eternity of pilgrims.

Geography is both the literal and metaphoric landscape against which these wanderers strive in their "quest for quietude". The religious images are fed by Buddhism, but one doesn't need to recognise them to understand the fervour of Lin's journey.

As if to underline the universality of his theme, Lin sets his piece to Georgian folk songs. The choreography is a fusion of East and West, from Martha Graham and classical ballet to T'ai Chi and Chinese Opera. Its gnarled, carved shapes are delivered so slowly that they appear to unfold within a trance. Lin's dancers meditate before a performance and you can see why: the focus and control required is formidable.

At the end a curtain of rice erupts in a golden explosion of ecstasy. It is a brilliant theatrical moment which bedazzles our imagination.

DEBRA CRAINE

A big adventure

The London Schools Symphony Orchestra is always adventurous in its programming. This concert enticed those curious to hear the first British performance of Tournemire's Symphony No 3, seldom played since its Concertgebouw premiere in 1914.

It was also clever to couple the Tournemire with Saint-Saëns's popular Symphony No 3: both works feature the organ, and both are structured in four movements spread over two parts. Both composers were organists themselves, but there the parallels end. The Saint-Saëns is one of the most brilliant French symphonies, and though this performance of the Tournemire was full of interest, it quickly explained why the work has languished in obscurity.

CONCERT

LSSO/Stark
Barbican

Charles Tournemire, who was born in 1870 and drowned at sea in 1939, is best remembered as the composer of *L'orgue mystique*, a cycle of organ suites for every Sunday of the church's year. As organist of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris he followed in the footsteps of one of his teachers, Franck; like another teacher, Widor, his output included several forgotten operas and prolific amounts of chamber music.

Tournemire composed his Third Symphony after a visit to Russia, and subtitled it *Moscou*: the Russian influence is heard most strongly in the gopak-like dance of the second movement and the evocation of the Kremlin bells in the third. The impressionistic first movement is less arresting, though its opening rather intriguingly points towards the beginning of Puccini's "Paris" opera, *Il tabarro*. Some passages wander generically, and the final apotheosis nearly doesn't happen, but the best moments, like the third movement's carillon, are striking. In contrast to the Saint-Saëns, the organ part is disappointingly unspectacular.

As well as putting the Tournemire into perspective, the Saint-Saëns gave the young players something with which to prove themselves. There is nothing elusive about this score, and Peter Stark got a performance of sweep and vigour. Richard Hunt displayed the necessary nerves of steel in his handling of the organ part, and with excellent playing from all sections of the orchestra this was a very grown-up performance.

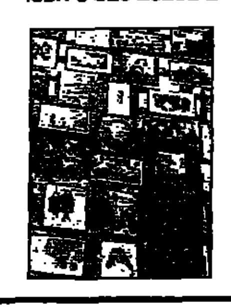
JOHN ALLISON

BOOKS

Celebration of life in the face of death

Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks hails a moving testament to the vanished world of the *shtetl*, a reminder of how Jews lived before the horror of the Holocaust

THERE ONCE WAS A WORLD
By Yaffa Eliach
Little, Brown, £30
ISBN 0 316 23252 1



Towards the end of her life, Lucy Davidowitz, doyenne of Holocaust historians, expressed qualms about the sheer flood of Shoah literature which, she feared, was threatening to drown out all other memories of European Jewry. The result, she warned, would be that young people would learn about "the Greeks and how they lived, the Romans and how they lived, and the Jews and how they died".

Her concern was justified. The Holocaust meant more than the murder of two thirds of Europe's Jews. It spelt the end of one of the most energetic and diverse of Europe's cultural traditions — the Jewish community life of the *shtetl*, the small townships of Central and Eastern Europe, with their rich and vivid worlds of Jewish piety and Yiddish humour. The Jews of Europe did more than die. They lived. And that life too deserves its memorial.

Walking around the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, I was struck by one section that did just this. Called *The Tower of Life*, it is a pictorial history of a small town in Lithuania called Eishyshock told through 1,500 photographs of the Jews who once lived, worked and prayed together there. It is almost unbearably moving, allowing us to identify with lives cut short, a community extinguished, a way of life destroyed.

That exhibit, I now discover, was the work of a remarkable historian, Yaffa Eliach, who has spent the past 17 years reconstructing the story of the town she was forced to leave as a child. *There Once Was a World* is that story, and it is destined to become a classic.

There had been Jews in Eishyshock since before the 11th century. It was a small community whose Jewish population rarely numbered more than 3,000. But through the centuries it sustained a vigorous Jewish life, together with synagogues, houses of study and an academy that could boast among its alumni some of the giants of the rabbinical world, among them the saintly Chafetz Chaim and Rabbi Isaac Reines, a pioneer of religious Zionism.

Eliach documents every aspect of the community. There are some marvellous stories. I loved the account of how the town acquired its second synagogue, built as an act of revenge by the father of the bar mitzvah boy who felt that his son (an ignoramus, but still the son of a wealthy man) had not been given sufficient honour. The argument split the town for 20 years.

Then there was the great exorcism that wasn't. Reb Meyshe-Yude, the schoolteacher, had been haunted at night by strange sounds which he naturally attributed to a *gilgul*, a stray soul, who had taken up residence in his ear. A quorum was gathered and a solemn exorcism duly performed but to no avail. Some days later all was explained. A mouse had become trapped in the lining of his bedcover and was trying to escape. Ever afterwards the teacher was known as Reb Maizele, the "little mouse". The other-worldly rabbis, strong women, quarrelsome merchants and child prodigies, the whole rumbustious, God-intoxicated atmosphere could have come straight from the fiction of Shalom Aleichem and Bashevis Singer. Never before, though, has it been more painstakingly recorded as history, or more poignantly.

For it was all destined to end. In June 1941 the German army invaded Lithuania and entered Eishyshock. On September 25 and 26, 3,500 of Eishyshock's Jews, with another 1,500 from the surrounding countryside, were murdered, men on the first day, women and children on the second. Only a handful survived. The town rabbi was forced to stand and watch the murder of his congregation and his family and was then buried alive.

Eliach herself, four years old at the time, spent the rest of the war in hiding and later witnessed the murder of her mother and brother. Her mission has been to move beyond the "stark images of victimisation and death" and write Holocaust history as a testament to life. Her book — massive, meticulous and written with astonishing grace — is a heartbreaking masterpiece.

It owes its title to one of the survivors, Eliach's uncle, who encouraged her to write so that the *shtetl* might live on in memory. "At least the people," he said, "and perhaps even God, will remember that there once was a world filled with faith, Judaism and humanity." There once was, and this is its memorial.



Recording the past: the Holocaust Memorial Museum

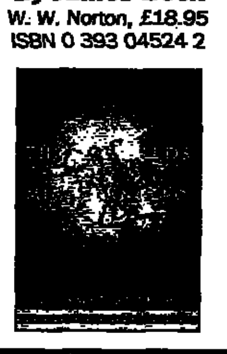


Michelangelo's The Expulsion from Eden, a detail from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, 1510 — one of the works commissioned by Pope Julius II

Pope, patron and pop

MICHAEL LEVEY

THREE WORLDS OF MICHELANGELO
By James Beck
W. W. Norton, £18.95
ISBN 0 393 04524 2



Any consideration of Michelangelo starts with a mighty advantage: the mass of material surviving from his own lifetime, including two biographies, of which the second represents his "authorised version" of his own career.

But with all the evidence accumulated by modern scholarship comes a mighty challenge. And about some periods of Michelangelo's life, notably the years he was growing up in Florence, our knowledge is patchy and unsure.

Professor Beck clearly relishes the challenge. Based on the sources and abreast of current research, his book is intentionally — and boldly — speculative. Yet he often fills his pages with familiar factual details (over, for instance, the placing of Michelangelo's *David* statue) of little or no relevance to his aim. That is to delineate what he calls three "worlds" of Michelangelo under the dominance of three "fathers": Lorenzo de' Medici ("the Magnificent"); Pope Julius II; and his actual father, Lodovico Buonarroti. They were crucial for the fulfilment of Michelangelo's "mission". According to the author: "Each formed for the artist an epicentre for discovery and expansion".

Less grandiloquently, everyone would agree that Julius II proved a stormy but superb patron, with ideas ambitious enough to equal Michelangelo's. Creative tension between two men never resulted in anything more sublime than the ceiling frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. But there was no need to describe each element of the scheme, though here it supplements a sooty, barely legible two-page illustration pasted over with labels. Professor Beck ought to be horrified by the poor quality of the illustrations throughout his book.

One novelty he does offer, as a "highly engaging possibility", is identification of the head of Holofernes, in the frescoes of Judith and Holofernes, as a portrait of Julius II. This is explained as a way of "poking fun" at the Pope's reputation as a womaniser. More holy terror than Holy Father, Julius II might have been less amused than Professor Beck assumes. In sad reality, he was a "father" who disappointed Michelangelo by dying before realisation of their joint project of his tomb — too cursorily discussed here.

We know tantalisingly little about the patronage Lorenzo de' Medici extended to the young Michelangelo. If a "father", in some sense, he was one who died suddenly and prematurely. Professor Beck invests him with magus-like significance, drifting from speculation into fancy: "A treasure trove of mysterious and exotic objects was laid open . . . by Lorenzo, who — we can guess — unfolded their secrets patiently . . ."

After that, it is inevitable that the Ghirlandaio brothers, who first took the boy into their studio, should be termed "predictable, profit-oriented craftsmen". Ghirlandaio deserves proper evaluation. His best work is far from "predictable". And his studio provided something Lorenzo de' Medici could not: sound training in painting techniques.

Not even Professor Beck can make much of a case for treating Michelangelo's father as an "epicentre" of more than grumbling self-pity. He was a paternal figure who had opposed the boy's wish to be an artist and who declined to die — just lived on to be a burden to his famous, middle-aged son. Although the Doni *tondo* and the David statue are discussed in connection with him, nothing suggests his interest in them. How he justifies the claim of helping Michelangelo fulfil his "mission" remains the most perplexing question in a perplexing book.

The transatlantic tale of the iceberg that was as big as Chile

DOMINIC BRADBURY

THE NANNY AND THE ICEBERG
By Ariel Dorfman
Sceptre, £10
ISBN 0 340 71302 X



One way or another much of the work in the canon of Ariel Dorfman has taken a microscope to the Pinochet dictatorship and its troubled aftermath. His latest novel, *The Nanny and the Iceberg*, is no exception. Yet for those who think of the Chilean poet, dramatist and novelist primarily as writer of the disturbing and politicised play *Death and the Maiden*, his new book will come as a surprise.

A political vein runs through *The Nanny and the Iceberg*, set in a post-Pinochet Chile experiencing the uneasy rebirth of democracy in the early 1990s; but this story and the way of its telling seem a world away from the sinister claustrophobia of Dorfman's landmark drama.

The new novel is a pseudo-picaresque tale, taking in two Americas, North and South, two Spanish-speaking territories in the old world and the new, and told with an endearing streak of intelligent, mischievous humour and a layer of eroticism which blend seamlessly together. Dorfman has woven a fictional web around a historical event: the Antarctic iceberg brought halfway around the world to take pride of place in the Chilean pavilion during the 1992 World's Fair in Seville, a gesture to mark Columbus's discovery of the Americas 500 years earlier. And a symbol, perhaps, of a reborn Chile although, as one of Dorfman's large cast explains, you can "see in it whatever you want to see".

Protagonist and narrator Gabriel McKenzie sees a bit of himself, identifying with the virginal quality he detects deep within the translucent ice. Because at 23, going on 24, Gabriel is an impotent Santiago-born virgin who believes himself cursed. Seventeen years an exile in New York (echoing Dorfman's own status as exile in an adopted America), Gabriel is haunted by his father, "the great Cristobal McKenzie", who, thousands of miles away, is busy on his life-affirming, Don Juan mission to make love every single day until his 50th birthday. Cristobal only came to sex in his twenties, but when he did he promised to never let go, and wagered with his best friend, Pablo Baron, that he would fulfil his Casanova goal, just as Baron promised that 25 years on he would be the most powerful man in Chile.

When long-suffering Milagros, Gabriel's mother, finally takes them both back to Chile and to Cristobal, Gabriel sees it as his opportunity to bond again with his father, learn the lessons of love and lift the terrible curse on his sex life. But he finds himself a stranger to both the city where he was born and to his father, while the tangle of secrets and lies Gabriel finds in Santiago is more complicated than he could ever have suspected. It's the iceberg project, threatened with destruction by a mysterious letter writer, which finally brings Gabriel closer to his father and his enigmatic, all-knowing Nana, who could just be the last survivor of a Patagonian Indian tribe. She quietly tries to help the ill-fated, misguided Gabriel in his search for happiness and understanding when all the odds seem stacked against him.

Taking the form of "the longest suicide note in history" — building up to a potentially explosive finale in Seville, city of Don Juan and Columbus — Gabriel's story is beautifully told. Dorfman's novel is wonderfully peopled with döppelgangers, metafictional turns and doses of myth and magic. *The Nanny and the Iceberg* affirms Ariel Dorfman's place, alongside Vargos Llosa and Gabriel García Márquez, as one of the finest voices in contemporary Latin American storytelling.

DIARY & LETTERS

■ **JILLY COOPER has had a strange experience. Her new novel *Score!*, out in May from Transworld, is a murder mystery, and at the end of it a group of people are standing round a grave. Suddenly a peacock butterfly flies up from the grave, and everybody thinks it is a ghost. Last weekend she was standing by the grave of her favourite dog in her Gloucestershire garden — and a peacock butterfly flew up from it, the first of the spring. She is hoping it is a good omen for her book.**

■ *BRIAN APPLEYARD reported in last weekend's* Sunday Times *that the Royal Society of Literature is thinking of electing scientific writers to its fellowships, and he predicted that the selfish-gene man, Richard Dawkins, would soon be offered one. The Society has moved more swiftly than Appleyard knew. Dawkins was made an FRSL two years ago, in 1997.*

■ WILBUR SMITH'S *Monsoon* has just broken all the records by becoming the biggest selling fiction hardback in one week ever. It sold 18,700 copies in the first week of publication. According to Bookwatch, the previous leader was Maeve Binchy's *Evening Class* with 16,400.

■ **MARY LUTYENS, who died last week at the age of 90, always did things her own way. She began by writing light romances and ended up as an outstanding biographer of the Ruskin circle. When her father, the great architect Edwin Lutyens, died on New Year's Day, 1944, she wanted a personal memento of him — and took his razor, because she smiled to think of him shaving in his bath without a mirror, as he always did.**

■ *POETS are taking up residence all over the shop. Now there is one at the Museum of London — Bernadine Evaristo, the author of the verse-novel* Lara *(Angela Royal Publishing, £7.99) a couple of years ago. She has been delving into the Museum's collection to find echoes of black people's presence in London over 2,000 years, and will be reading her poems on the subject there on Thursday June 24 at 6.30pm (£4).*

■ AND under plain brown wrapper: in 1993 Virgin's Black Lace brought erotic fiction written for women by women out from under the counter. Now Virgin, who already publish the Idol imprint of erotic fiction for gay men, are launching Sapphire, lesbian fiction for women. The "sexy, gender-bending" *Big Deal* by Helen Sandler — once acting editor of *Diva* — is well and truly out on May 20.

■ **AMAZON.COM, and their UK arm, amazon.co.uk, are starting to face stiff competition over internet bookselling. In the United States, amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com vie for cyberbookshopping; now, in Britain, Ottakar's joins amazon and bol.com online. Find them from late summer at: www.ottakars.co.uk**

■ And e-mail us at books@the-times.co.uk

Carry on, Mr President, you're even funnier than fiction

MARIANNE WIGGINS

TOMCAT IN LOVE
By Tim O'Brien
Flamingo, £16.99
ISBN 0 00 225819 6



So, into every life some pain must crawl. For a few, the mauling pain will shape the life; for others, pain will be the starting point on a soaring arc of recovery toward redemption. History — unlike novels — tells us otherwise. The speaking oracle of history tells us most lives are lived unplotted by defining points along a narrative arc. Most human beings live lives of *un*defining moments.

Such are not the lives we expect to find in novels; nor, for that matter, do we expect novelists to live undefining, ordinary lives. In the case of American novelist Tim O'Brien, the pain that crawled into his life and gave its anguished shape to his bent was none other than that immense defining "moment" in America's recent history, the war in Vietnam.

In three stunning novels — *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, *Going After Cacciato* and *The Things They Carried* — O'Brien has been unsparing, and unsurpassed, in showing us the scars of war his psyche bears. For 20 years he has given us harrowing written proof of his unwillingness to be defined *only* by his experiences in that war. Again and again he has tried to wrestle awake from that nightmare into a dreamlike peace, only to be pulled back, fated like Prometheus to be chained forever to the pain. Watching him attempt to free himself through his subsequent novels (all of them excursions into isolation and loss) has been, at times, excruciating; but that is part of what makes reading him exciting. Will he succeed against his own demons? If so, how?

In Tomcat in Love, loss is yet again O'Brien's theme. Thomas H. Chippering, the eponymous Tomcat, has lost Lorna Sue, the girl-next-door he fell in love with at age seven, fell into carnal knowledge of a decade later on the hood of his father's Pontiac in the middle of a Minnesota cornfield and, eventually, married. O'Brien's first-person narrator Tom (for whom read Tim, himself) relates the tale of how Lorna Sue has left him and gone to Tampa, Florida, into the arms of a tycoon after her brother Herbie — formerly Tom's best friend — reveals a love "ledger" (an account of sexual conquests) which Tom has kept hidden, so to speak, beneath the conjugal mattress. O'Brien's ear for dialogue is like a jungle scout's, trained to the ground for subtle footfalls. He hears, and creates, spooks at the end of spoken sentences. The first six pages of *Tomcat in Love*, establishing the anticipation which always foreshadows loss, are O'Brien at his brilliantly weird and frightening best.

Unfortunately, after that what O'Brien hopes to fly as broad (pun intended) sexual comedy falls flat until its unexpected redeeming final page. Dull where deftness is needed, what is intended as high comedy reads more *farci* than farce. This is probably Bill Clinton's fault. Even someone of O'Brien's ample gifts could not have anticipated the sheer farcical brilliance of *The Starr Report*. The lunacy alive in the air in the States is hard to capture in fiction — in fact, it may be impossible — so the second-hand feeling of reading recycled jokes in many of O'Brien's set scenes is not entirely his fault. Close, as they say, but no cigar.

Tomcat in Love is never quite buoyantly nutso to be farce. It lumbers along, sputtering like a cartoon Chevy gasping for gas. Then it delivers a coda on the last page which made my heart leap with hope. *Yes*, O'Brien argues convincingly, there *is* something on the other side of pain worth fighting for. Its shape is Love. Thank you, Tim.

Marianne Wiggins's novel, Almost Heaven, *is published by Anchor at £9.99.*





BOOKS

Sex isn't everything, but everything is sex

Oxford's reader on sexuality explores the protean passion which pleasures and pains humanity



Peter Ackroyd

Why there should be an "Oxford Readers" guide to *sexuality* is anybody's guess. Lawrence once said that sex in the head was the most uncomfortable place to have it, and *this volume might* seem to represent the ultimate in cerebral eroticism. There are essays with such titles as *Inanna Rejoicing in her Vulva*, *Sodomy and Moral Panic in the Low Countries* and *"Deep Sex" in the Skeleton*. Each may be valuable in itself, but *en masse* they may not be considered suitable bedtime reading.

Such is the pervasiveness of the subject, however, that to talk about sex is to talk about everything else — from oligarchical government to 19th-century theories of selfhood. The problem is compounded by the fact that the expression of sexuality changes with each generation, or with each culture, so that researchers are not necessarily or always talking about the same thing.

In Ancient Canopus, and in many other pre-Christian civilisations, the sex act was considered a form of worship. In classical Athens sexuality was seen as an indication of social identity and "a *manifestation of personal status*". It need not necessarily be assumed, however, that the advent of Christian morality cast a sudden and *brutal cloud over the unthinking* pleasures of the pagans — as one of the contributors here remarks, the Ancients could be just as pessimistic and unhappy about sexual congress as the most melancholy anchorite.

The woes of women began a little later, when the medieval Church decided that females were pre-eminently emblems of lustfulness and thus "created sexual sin as a particularly feminine crime". No pleasure was to be expected or experienced by good women in the act itself, therefore, except the gratification of knowing that another little Christian was on its way to being born. The ideal woman was one who followed the example of Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra, who "had no more sensitivity in her sexual parts than in her feet or hands". Yet *it is suggested in Sexuality* that this extraordinary misinterpretation of the female continued for many centuries, through the agency of *such seers as Rousseau and Freud*.

But if women were mistreated, those known by the name of sodomites had even more unhappy experiences. *If caught they were burnt* and tortured or, if they were fortunate, garrotted and drowned in a barrel. These examples of violent animosity were periodic in nature and in intensity, generally occurring in eras when a range of victims were being chosen to expiate more general social problems.

Of course, as the editor explains here, perversions were the creation of the 19th century. The intellectual police, in the mid-point of that era, committed the extraordinary sin of naming them, and then created "a small army of medical and legal specialists devoted to studying, curing or punishing them". This embodies a point made by many contributors to this anthology — sex, and its varied descriptions, is always part of the more general culture. In the 19th century it might be constructed as a form of bourgeois familial morality or it might be seen as a form of transcendental impulse based upon borrowings from German idealism. Sex is not an "it" which persists perpetually, manifesting itself in the same range of activities, but a protean force which can take a thousand different forms or appearances.

Despite its forbidding appearance, therefore, this book is worth pursuing — there are discussions on prostitution, "liberation" and masturbation. A textbook of the 18th century, entitled *Onania*, was "a compilation of the lives of men brought low by self-abuse", and elaborate lists of precautions were suggested. One victim of the habit *kept a record of his "seminal losses"*: "Excitement in morning; only drops. . ." Masturbation was considered the prime cause of degeneracy in individuals, and *in races* — more dangerous than plagues or wars. It is easy to ridicule these opponents of the pleasure principle, but the same overreactions are still displayed by the opponents of drink or cigarettes.

One general point remains, however, resting largely on the belief propounded by the editor of this collection that individuals "are increasingly obliged to present to the world a self based *in large degree* on personal sexual identity". Certainly the 20th century has seen an emphasis upon sexuality, to the exclusion of everything else, and this has created an unbalanced and almost hysterical obsession with sexual preference and sexual activity.

It may be worth repeating that sexual identity is not the most important component of human character. What began as a 20th-century sexual revolution has turned into the newest forms of conformity and conventionality. The strength of this book lies in its wholly objective manner in the face of sexual correctness. A tendentious account of Aids, for example, is succeeded by a sharp rebuttal. The only real problem in writing about sex is that of *predictability*; by *juxtaposing many writers and many ideas, Sexuality* avoids that fate and offers a great deal of enlightenment as well.

SEXUALITY
Edited by Robert A. Nye
OUP, £15
ISBN 0 19 288019 5



Albion stands alone

NOR SHALL MY SWORD
By Simon Heffer
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99
ISBN 0 297 64332 0

IN the moment of Scottish and Welsh devolution, Heffer washes his hands of the Union and calls for a revival of English cultural nationalism. In a thoroughly nasty, narrow little book, Heffer takes the English to task for weak-kneed acquiescence in multiculturalism and political naivety. This wanton political polemic manages to be not only offensive to the Scots, Welsh and Irish, but takes a swipe at Europe and cuffs at the complacency of English *yeomen and yobbos alike*.

All loved-out

THE END OF THE NOVEL OF LOVE
By Vivian Gornick
Virago, £9.99
ISBN 1 86049 646 6

THIS lit-crit excursion posits the death of romantic love — in literature as well as in living experience. Gornick's theme, "that love might dilute the strength of a good novel rather than gather it in", embraces, among others, the fiction of George Meredith, Willa Cather and Virginia Woolf and the lives of Clover Adams, Hannah Arendt and Jean Rhys. "Love as a metaphor," Gornick concludes, "is an act of nostalgia, not of discovery." You might as well die, as Dorothy Parker didn't say.

Just joking

PLAY RESUMED
By D. J. Enright
OUP, £18
ISBN 0 19 288108 6

AMONG the pleasures of Enright's enlightening engrams, we are promised "the funny side of Goethe, Kafka and Schopenhauer" — the very highest of jinks. But poets, Enright observes, take a risk when they lighten solemnity with wit. He shouldn't worry about being given the bum's rush from the poetry reading circuit: his humour is sufficiently erudite and high-minded. Some old-fartism aside, he casts an experienced eye and cocks an ironic ear on everything from God to Grub Street.

IAIN FINLAYSON

INTERVIEWED THIS SATURDAY
Crime writer Walter Mosley

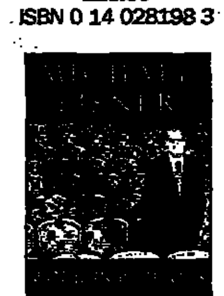
Mouse that roared

Michael Eisner revived Disney's fortunes by his animated dealing, says Colin Shindler



Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas with Mickey Mouse at the opening ceremony of the Planet Hollywood Café at Disneyland Paris, 1996

WORK IN PROGRESS
By Michael Eisner
Penguin
£18.99
ISBN 0 14 028198 3



Michael Eisner is probably the most important Hollywood mogul since Jack Warner in the 1960s. It could never be said of him, as it could of Warner, that he would rather tell a bad joke than make a good movie. He has made many good movies — from *The Lion King* to *Dead Poets Society*. Eisner is the chairman of the Walt Disney Company.

Eisner achieved his current lofty status via New York and television, unlike the old heads of the studios who despised television and thought of New York, where fiscal decisions were taken, as "the enemy".

Eisner began life in a comfortable Park Avenue apartment on the Upper East Side. His grandfather Sigmund Eisner had followed the classic immigrant trail — arriving penniless in America in 1880, finding work as a pedlar and millionaire status making uniforms for the Army. The progress of the Eisners is a perfect example of the way in which Hollywood has evolved in the past 75 years.

No doubt Sigmund's son and grandson could have enjoyed the fruits of his labours, but Grandpa's legacy appears to have been a ferocious work ethic. Eisner's father consumed Princeton and Harvard Law School and became head of public housing for the state of New York. Eisner writes admiringly of his father that he always seemed youthful, charismatic and athletic. He loved golf, tennis and polo, "coming home bruised and bloodied". This sounds like a man to avoid on the 18th green with the match all square.

Work In Progress, despite being written "with Tony Schwartz", is the unmistakable voice of Hollywood's most powerful executive. Do not read it with a view to learning more about the mechanics of film-making. There are no insights into the production of Eisner's movies which included, during his time at Paramount, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Reds*, *Ordinary People* and *Terms of Endearment*. The art of Hollywood is the art of the deal and Eisner is one of the best.

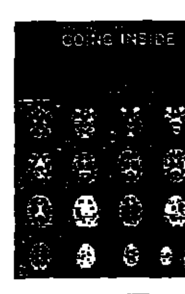
His description of how he came to be chief executive at Disney, his 15-year collaboration with Jeffrey Katzenberg — who left in a huff to found the Dream Works studio with Steven Spielberg and David Geffen — and his subsequent tortured working relationship with Michael Ovitz are the stuff of this book.

Disney is no longer a film company, it is a brand. Eisner's job is not to supervise movies but to produce profits for the Disney empire which now stretches from Disneyland Paris to Broadway versions of the animated films. Eisner took a troubled company and made it one of the success stories of recent corporate American history. How it will survive in the event of Eisner's departure, which nearly happened after a heart attack in 1994, is harder to predict.

In 1940 Leo Rosten wrote *Hollywood, the Movie Colony, the Movie Makers*, the first sociological examination of the American film industry. In 1951 the *New Yorker* journalist Lillian Ross wrote a book called *Picture* which detailed the making of John Huston's *The Red Badge of Courage* during the months at MGM when Louis B. Mayer was being manoeuvred out of his own company. *Work in Progress* is unlikely to acquire the same literary cachet, but it is possible that it will be examined by media students in 50 years as the former is now — a *telling snapshot of Hollywood* at the end of the millennium.

It's all a state of mind

GOING INSIDE
By John McCrone
Faber & Faber
£20
ISBN 0 571 17319 5



Even if he did not admit in the first chapter, that he was no professional scientist but a journalist instead, John McCrone's slick and pacy style is a dead giveaway. Here, at last, is a book on the brain where sentences sparkle: *it is a true joy to read* and, at least for the first half, impossible to put down.

We join McCrone in the mid-1970s, where he is fascinated by the reality of a moment of consciousness, yet bitterly disillusioned by the *sterile scientific approaches of the time*. Rather than plod through each technical advance year by remorseless year, McCrone has a more agile strategy: we are introduced to the awesome progress in brain research as each comes appropriately to hand for building up a picture of how the brain does indeed generate the subjective experience *of a moment of living*. Accordingly, the next few chapters take a very sensible look at brain scanning, the seemingly eternal controversy of conscious computers and the actual relevance of recording the brain's electrical signals.

McCrone's manifesto, eloquently and persuasively argued, is that the brain is above *all a dynamic system* — not tractable to computational description but more a cauldron of interconnected and evolving processes most *hopefully modelled* not by Chaos, but by Complexity Theory. McCrone humanises the story by describing the key events along the way. Whole careers as well as personal characteristics of diverse scientists are laid out before us — telling tales of the perils of going against inherited wisdom, of serendipitous discovery and of the burden of preconceived ideas. Yet despite the well-argued stance in favour of incessant change in the brain where vibrance, adaptability and wholesale operations distinguish it at the most fundamental level from the input/output processing of a computer, McCrone lapses into the very trap he eschews. As he builds up from whole events to whole brain regions, the inevitable stage by stage processing so beloved of the computer modeller creeps back into his narrative.

In a book with no illustrations at all, the neuroanatomical circuits described may well be bewildering for the general reader, let alone the descriptions of how they work sequentially together. McCrone's case is not helped by the graphic but misleading writing tricks of referring to each region as a clearly defined centre that "decides" or "compares" or "filters" as though each was an autonomous mini-brain. To be fair, the concluding chapters do return to the message that the changing brain enables a moment of consciousness to bring "your entire history to bear on your next step, your next breath, your next moment" — as McCrone quotes the pioneer neuroscientist Walter Freeman. It is not an end product but a change in an ongoing state.

However, such showcasing of some means omission of others. In a book exploring consciousness, I would have expected some discussion of Penrose's application of Quantum Theory and of Amilam Grinwald's stunning experiments showing that brain cells can indeed assemble into functional groups of some ten million within a mere 230 seconds — and all triggered by a single light flash. Moreover, the excursion into self-consciousness and language would have benefited from reference to the *ideas of the archaeologist* Stephen Mithen who has come up with a theory as to how the modern human mind differs both from our primate cousins and indeed from our Neanderthal predecessors.



Pathways that detect smell

Anyone really interested in consciousness might have hoped for applications of all of McCrone's comprehensive knowledge of the brain to the actions of modifying drugs, of hormones and indeed to the importance of the rest of the body to the "feel" of an emotion — as well as a discussion of the relevance of all the above to disorders such as schizophrenia and depression.

But coming up with a good "slant" on consciousness is a tall order. I would love this book to be on all introductory reading lists for those studying the brain. For while it gives no insight nor any real new way of *looking at consciousness itself, Going Inside* is a brilliant entrée to the highs and lows of the current state of the art of neuroscience.

SUSAN GREENFIELD

Tale aimed high

There was an unusual degree of consensus among Moscow's otherwise riven literati when the shortlist for the 1997 Russian Booker Prize was announced. It was as though everyone — including the shortlisted authors — felt impoverished by the exclusion from the contest of *Chapaev and the Void*, an ambitious novel by Victor Pelevin, one of Russia's most promising young writers. English readers may never get the chance to read Anatoli Azolsky's *The Cage* which went on to win. However, Pelevin's metaphysical *tour de force*, renamed *The Clay Machine-Gun* (Faber, £9.99; ISBN 0 571 19406 0), is now available in a true translation by Andrew Bromfield.

In this novel Pelevin develops the technique, perfected in his satirical short stories, of constantly tilting the narrative floor so that the reader no longer knows where the border between fantasy and reality lies.

The Clay Machine-Gun ostensibly tells a version of the much-mythologised history of Vasily Chapaev, the heroic Red Army Commander during the Civil War, through the eyes of his devoted adjutant Petka. Through a series of drunken discussions in the bathhouse, Petka and Vasily grapple with the themes of Russia's history, before going out to do battle with the help of Anka, their powerfully attractive machinegunner.

Alternatively, the novel describes the elaborate schizophrenic fantasies of a group of patients in a contemporary Moscow asylum. Maria thinks he is a female Mexican soap star clinging to the body of a jet fighter piloted by Arnold Schwarzenegger. Serdyuk believes that he has been forced to commit ritual suicide when an interview with a Japanese bank makes unexpected claims on his honour. Volodin is certain that he burns with the grace of God.

On another level still, the novel is "a peculiar flight of free thought" to Inner Mongolia on the edge of the Eastern Steppe, and a spiritual place where consciousness and eternal grace unite. You can pick over the trail of Russian literature and history finding clues in the references culled from *intensive reading. You can* leave the asylum under the sometimes brutal guidance of Doctor Timur Timurovich (the psychological Tamberlaine); you can follow Chapaev as he applies the teachings of Buddha with the help of a metaphysical clay machinegun.

By juggling so many narrative balls it is perhaps inevitable that Pelevin disappoints the reader by allowing some of them to crash to the floor. And while *The Clay Machine-Gun* demonstrates that Pelevin is a virtuoso of the short story, it also reveals his weakness as a novelist.

NATASHA FAIRWEATHER

Bargains of the week: ten days exploring Nepal; a hilltop farmhouse in Sardinia; walking back in time in Tewkesbury

PACK YOUR BAGS

■ *A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices*

BRITISH ISLES

WINDMILLS, post, smock and tower dominate the Norfolk Broads and many will be open and in action on National Mills Weekend, May 8 to 9. The best way to see them is by boat and Norfolk Broads Direct has four-berth fully-equipped cruisers available from £259 for three nights that weekend or £398 for the week. Details: 0800 917 3206.

■ SWINDON seems an unlikely setting for a Festival of Literature but from May 1 to 9, readings, talks and workshops will take place, featuring writers from the serious Beryl Bainbridge to the frivolous Penny Junor. If you want to stay, choose from Lower Shaw Farm, where B&B costs £12, or the De Vere Hotel, where Edwina Currie will be appearing and where two nights' half-board costs £75. Details: 01793 771080/878785.

■ POWIS Castle and gardens can be visited as part of a short break at the Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool, which costs £69.50 including two nights' dinner, B&B. Details: 01938 552217.

■ MULL, with its golden eagles and volcanic landscape, and Coll, with a recently established bird reserve, feature on a week's wildlife holiday with Naturetrek, which begins with a ferry trip from Oban on May 8 and costs £595. Details: 01962 733051.

■ JERSEY for three nights for £99 is on offer in early May from Modern Hotels. The price includes catamaran crossings from Poole or Weymouth. Details: 01534 35511.

■ WALKING back in time along the Avon and Severn rivers from a base at a family hotel in Tewkesbury is proposed by Compass Holidays which is offering two-night breaks with breakfast for £137. They include maps and itineraries taking in Iron Age forts, battlefields and historic buildings. Details: 01242 250642.

EUROPE

GREECE and its islands are always good value, if rather sleepy and cool at this time of year, *Tony Dawe writes*. Simple self-catering holidays on Rhodes are available for a week from April 21 for £119 and from April 28 for £169 with Direct Greece, including return flights from Gatwick, while Sunvil Holidays is offering a week from May 7 for £189 and a fortnight for £229 at the quiet Corfu seaside village of Maltas, also with flights from Gatwick. Details: Direct Greece, 0181-785 4000; Sunvil, 0181-568 4499.

■ MORE adventurous times in the Aegean are promised by Explore Worldwide, with a fortnight's tour beginning on May 16 and including a hike up Mount Zeus on Naxos and a visit to Thera on Santorini. Fly to Athens and sail to several islands, with time for beach and tavernas for £615, including B&B in hotels. Details: 01252 760100.

■ MALTA moves upmarket with the opening this month of the Xara Palace Hotel in the ancient capital, Mdina. Introductory weekend breaks will be available next month from £300, but book the Air Malta flights and hotel separately. Details: hotel, 00 356 450560; flights, 0181-785 3177.

■ TWO full days at the park, four nights' B&B at the main on-site hotel and a trip to Paris are included in a five-day Disneyland break by coach with Leger, which starts from pick-up points in England and Wales on April 26. Price: £269, with big savings for children. Details: 01709 839839.

■ SEVEN NIGHTS in Sorrento at a four-star hotel overlooking the Bay of Naples are on offer from Crystal Premier Italy for some departures in May, June and July. Prices start at £409 for a week's half-board from May 14, with a flight from Gatwick or Manchester. Details: 0181-390 5554.

■ SARDINIA seldom features in these columns but the hilltop farmhouse overlooking the sea near Cannigione on offer from Voyages Ilena cries out for inclusion, especially because it is available at a discount. A week in the property, with a pool and genuine antiques, costs £422, based on four sharing, with direct flights from London on May 13 and 20 and car hire. Details: 0171-924 4440.



SPECTRUM

Enjoy National Mills Weekend in the Norfolk Broads

LONG HAUL

SURF, sail and cycle holidays are a rare combination, even in the Caribbean, but they are available from Sunworld Sailing with a week's B&B at a beach hotel in the Dominican Republic costing £680. The flight leaves Gatwick on May 3. Details: 01273 626284.

■ SRI LANKA for a fortnight for £349 is a near unbeatable offer, but move fast to take advantage. Bookings must be made with Tradewinds by Tuesday and the flight departs Heathrow on April 26. The deal includes B&B at the Tropical Villas Hotel at Beruwela. Details: 0870-751 0004.

■ NEPAL is a different world altogether — but also available at an exceptional price. Ten days exploring Kathmandu, hilltop temples, medieval cities, Bodhnath, Patan and the Himalayan foothills near Pokhra cost from £699 with Bales Worldwide. The tour begins with a flight from Heathrow on May 23; the price includes B&B, additional meals and sightseeing. Details: 01306 876881.

■ STUDENT deals are popular this week although the timing will not be ideal for most. Usit Campus is offering Delhi and Bombay return for £299 for travel next month, plus Calcutta for £362 and Madras for £369. STA Travel is offering its best student and under-26 deals from Edinburgh with Lufthansa. New York return costs £189, Los Angeles £239 and Hong Kong £299. Flights must be purchased by May 1, but can be taken until the end of June. Details: Usit Campus, 0870-240 1010; STA Travel, 0870-607 4700.

■ HOLLYWOOD for two nights, plus two days in San Francisco and three in Las Vegas, are included in 12-day touring holidays with Jetsave. The first departure is from Heathrow on May 17 and the cost is £870, a £75 saving. Details: 01342 327711.

● *All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room unless otherwise stated.*



See *The Times* on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

CHECK-IN



Court of Appeal

Considering anonymity of witnesses

Regina v Saville of Newdigate (Lord) and Others, Ex parte B and Others

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 30]

Although a decision by the chairman of a public inquiry, guaranteeing the anonymity of witnesses whose evidence might expose them to risk to their lives or security, could not bind a future inquiry established many years later to reinvestigate the same events, it was a matter which the later inquiry tribunal was bound to take into account and to give some weight to when deciding, in relation to its own procedures, whether to accord those witnesses the same protection.

The Court of Appeal so held when granting leave for, but dismissing an appeal by Lord Saville of Newdigate, Sir Edward Somers and Mr Justice Hoyt, the members of the tribunal sitting as the second Bloody Sunday Inquiry, against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Blofeld) on March 16, 1999, granting the applicants, B, O, U and V, judicial review of a ruling of the tribunal on December 14, 1998, in so far as it denied them anonymity as witnesses to the inquiry.

The four applicants, together with a fifth referred to as soldier H, were all ex-servicemen who had fired live rounds in Londonderry on January 30, 1972, during the events referred to as "Bloody Sunday" in which 13 people died and at least as many more were injured, and whose anonymity had been assured when they gave evidence before the first inquiry, chaired by Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, in 1972.

In his report, Lord Widgery recorded:

"Since it was obvious that by giving evidence soldiers and police officers might increase the dangers which they, and indeed their families, have to run, I agreed that they should appear before me under pseudonyms."

With the exception of five senior officers, none of the 40 soldiers who gave evidence before the Widgery inquiry, including 28 who had fired lived rounds, were required to disclose their names.

The current inquiry into Bloody Sunday was established by resolution of both Houses of Parliament in January 1998 and was subject to the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921.

In arriving at its ruling on anonymity, it observed:

"We do not know by whom or in exactly what terms this assurance is supposed to have been given. It seems to us that we can assume no more than that the soldiers understood and expected their names would not be divulged in the course of proceedings before Lord Widgery.

"We are not aware of any reason to believe that an assurance was given that their names would never be disclosed by anyone. Accordingly, we treat these as fresh applications for the grant of anonymity and we start with no presumption that the existing de facto anonymity should be preserved."

The tribunal decided to place the obligation on those who sought anonymity to show "genuine and reasonable fears as to the potential consequences of disclosure of their personal details" and concluded that in most cases it would be sufficient if the identification of those at risk was restricted to the use of surnames, all other details being withheld, with alternative arrangements being contemplated only in the case of particularly unusual surnames.

On the application for judicial review of the tribunal's ruling, the Divisional Court also heard submissions on behalf of the families of those who had died and those who were injured on Bloody Sunday, and on behalf of the Ministry of Defence representing other soldiers in the same position as the applicants but as yet inidentified.

The Divisional Court concluded that the inquiry tribunal "misunderstood the nature and extent of the anonymity granted to the applicants by Lord Widgery, and that this misunderstanding played a significant part in the inquiry's reasoning process when arriving at the decision under challenge".

For that and other reasons it quashed the ruling and remitted the matter for reconsideration by the tribunal.

Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Mr Alan Roxburgh for the tribunal; Mr John Coyle for the families of the deceased and the injured; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC, Mr David Lloyd Jones and Mr Michael Bools for the soldiers; Mr Ian Burnett, QC, for the Ministry of Defence.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said it was important to emphasise that tribunals of that nature had a difficult task to perform, without precise guidance as to what procedures to follow.

Inevitably they knew far more about the problems into which they were inquiring than any court of supervisory jurisdiction hearing an application for judicial review.

They were, moreover, entitled to determine their own procedures and the courts should only interfere for a very good reason.

Here, it was said that the tribunal's decision could have adverse consequences which could affect the soldiers' security or threaten their lives. In those special circumstances, it was not suggested that the Divisional Court was wrong to intervene.

An objection taken to the present appeal was that it was directed not against the decision of the Divisional Court, but merely against part of its reasoning. As a general rule, appeals must be against decisions, not against judgments or reasons: see *Lake v Lake* ([1955] P 336).

Most appeals now required leave and one would expect courts to be slow to grant such leave merely in respect of faulty reasoning. A similar approach should be taken on judicial review: but there were always exceptions, of which this case was one. In the circumstances, his Lordship was satisfied that the court had jurisdiction to hear the appeal.

In reaching its decision, the tribunal had exhibited great care to balance the interests of the families of the deceased and other interested parties, as against the legitimate interests of the soldiers in not being inappropriately exposed to risk.

It was also important to bear in mind that the tribunal's was an interim decision, which recognised that questions of anonymity might be reconsidered on the basis of material put before it by any of the parties. It was nevertheless a decision which would influence its future conduct of the inquiry and one which ought, if erroneous, to be corrected.

Mr Glasgow contended that the issue should be treated as one of withdrawal of anonymity rather than refusal to grant it, and that the tribunal had erred in adopting a "clean sheet" approach in which the onus was on the soldiers to make a fresh application.

Having been promised anonymity for the Widgery inquiry, they had a legitimate expectation that their anonymity would be respected and preserved thereafter.

According to the tribunal's approach, however, their right to anonymity would have expired as soon as Lord Widgery had completed his inquiry and delivered his report. That could not be right.

The Divisional Court observed that "any decision which involves disclosure of their surnames for the purposes of this present inquiry is on the face of it a breach of the 1972 assurance because, once their surnames are revealed, together with such information as they may now give, it will be possible to discover who appeared under which letter in 1972.

"Indeed it seems almost inevitable that if the present decision stands each applicant will now be cross-examined publicly about what he said in 1972."

It was right that Lord Widgery could only deal with what would happen at his own inquiry. What he said could not bind a tribunal set up 26 years later. But in deciding what was appropriate and fair to the soldiers, what Lord Widgery said could not be ignored.

The clean sheet approach could never from the soldiers' point of view be fairly adopted. They were entitled to have the current tribunal take into account what had been said in 1972, since their identification in 1999 would result in their identification in relation to the earlier inquiry.

It might be only one of the considerations which the second tribunal should take into account, but it could not be ignored; and in the reasons it gave for its ruling, the tribunal appeared not to have given the matter the appropriate weight.

The Divisional Court's criticism could not be faulted and its decision must be upheld.

When the matter was reconsidered by the tribunal, it should take into account the obvious inferences to be drawn from what Lord Widgery had said.

Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Ward gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Mr Philip L. Ridd; B. M. Birnberg & Co for Madden & Finucane, Belfast, McCartney & Casey, Derry, Desmond J. Doherty & Co, Derry, and Macdermott & McGurk, Derry; Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

Court of Appeal

Special loss too remote and irrecoverable

Saleslease Ltd v Davis

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment March 30]

In assessing damages for the tort of conversion, a consequential loss above the market value which was special to the circumstances of the particular plaintiff but not made known to the tortfeasor was too remote and therefore irrecoverable.

It followed that a plaintiff could not recover damages for the loss of a lucrative leasing contract fortuitously available with only one particular customer since the defendant could not have foreseen that by retaining the goods the only possibility of entering into a leasing contract would be lost.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (Lord Justice Schiemann dissenting), allowing the appeal of the defendant, Robert James Davis, from the decision of District Judge Oldham in the Sheffield District Registry on April 18, 1996 to award damages of £8,593.84 with interest of £1,350.53 to the plaintiff, Saleslease Ltd for wrongful detention of goods owned by Saleslease.

Mr Michael E. Coles for Mr Davis; Mr Cyril Kinski for Saleslease.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said that on September 22, 1993, Saleslease leased to Mr Campbell a MOT testing machine. Mr Campbell was a tenant of Mr Davis, who later repudiated the lease for the equipment, which remained on Mr Davis's premises.

At the end of March 1994 there was an agreement to leave the equipment on the site hoping that Mr Davis could persuade an incoming tenant to take on the equipment.

On April 6 Saleslease turned down an offer of £5,000 for the equipment on behalf of a prospective tenant. By April 8 Saleslease wanted £12,500.

Unbeknown to Mr Davis, a Mr Gyles had sought a Saleslease facility for new MOT testing equipment in March. That was effectively turned down.

Saleslease deposed to an oral agreement with Mr Gyles to take the second-hand equipment at Mr Davis's premises on April 11. The parties corresponded.

Mr Davis gave notice that Saleslease could remove the equipment but on terms. Saleslease refused. Saleslease advised Mr Davis that if he continued to obstruct the removal of the goods and they were unable to assign the lease they would claim losses of £12,303.74 plus VAT and damages.

On July 24 Saleslease's solicitors wrote claiming that Mr Davis had caused Saleslease severe loss by preventing them from arranging a novation of the agreement with Mr Campbell worth about £12,500.

That letter indicated that by July 22 the opportunity to assign to Mr Gyles had disappeared. Only on August 1, 1994 was the equipment released to Saleslease by Mr Davis.

An application for judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was then pursued and Saleslease obtained judgment on February 27, 1995 for damages to be assessed.

The case for Saleslease was in essence that leasing second-hand equipment of that type was hardly possible. Thus, in the result, once having retrieved the equipment they were only able to sell that equipment for £5,000.

As of April 11, 1994 they had persuaded Mr Gyles to take on the equipment on a leasing contract under which they would have received £13,194. Due to the delay in returning the equipment Mr Gyles made different arrangements thus the deal was lost.

Saleslease suffered damages being the difference between £5,000 and £13,194.

Mr Davis's case was that there was a serious doubt as to whether there was any deal with Mr Gyles and whether Mr Gyles would have paid the full sum because he was a risk Saleslease had not previously been prepared to take on and in fact stayed in the premises to which the equipment was delivered for only one year.

Accordingly, the measure of damages should be the difference between the market value of the equipment and the sum for which it was ultimately sold. Thus damages were asserted to be no more than £250 or nominal.

That that bargain was exceptional was accepted by Saleslease. The district judge on affidavit evidence only concluded that, on the balance of probabilities, there was a contract between Saleslease and Mr Gyles and awarded in damages the whole sum on that contract less £500 for accelerated payment.

His Lordship summarised the situation.

First, Saleslease had the oppurtunity of a deal with Mr Gyles by chance, and that was the only deal available to them which would have produced a value of £13,194.

Second, the value otherwise was £5,000 for which Saleslease would, and ultimately did, sell the equipment.

Third, the ordinary expectation of Mr Davis would be that retention might lead to a difference between what the plaintiff could dispose of the goods for as between the date of original detention and the date when the goods were handed back, or conceivably might lead to a loss of hire, if the goods could have been hired out, during the period of detention.

He could not be expected to know, unless told, that Saleslease could not lease the second-hand equipment other than to one person who was available only by chance and the internal decision not to sell him new equipment but to take the risk of selling second-hand equipment to him.

His Lordship reviewed the law on remoteness of damage in relation to consequential loss. In *The Arpad* ([1934] P 189) the majority of the Court of Appeal held that the true measure of damages was the value of the goods at the date of non-delivery disregarding circumstances peculiar to the plaintiff not made known to the defendants prior to the entry into the contract of carriage.

The majority judgments in *The Arpad* were binding on the court. In a case of wrongful detention of goods the appropriate test for recovering something above the market value would be by reference to whether that loss could have been anticipated by the defendant.

This case was not as straightforward on its facts as *The Arpad*, where it was clear that the direct cause of the loss was the delay in delivery.

The question to his Lordship's mind was whether Mr Davis could reasonably have anticipated that the loss on the Campbell contract could be fully mitigated by a further lease if the equipment was returned when demanded, but could not be mitigated other than by a sale if there was delay in return.

There was nothing to put Mr Davis on notice of the fortuitous circumstances that led Mr Gyles to be available and to be the only customer available to take the equipment on lease.

Accordingly, it could not be said that Mr Davis should have reasonably anticipated that if the equipment were not handed back immediately on demand, the only possibility of entering into a leasing contract would be lost.

If Saleslease had been entitled to recover by reference to the contract with Mr Gyles, a very similar result would have been reached. The correct question to pose would have been what chances were there of Saleslease receiving the whole of £13,194. It was doubtful whether more than £5,000 was realistic.

Saleslease had not established that any damage was suffered by the delay in returning the equipment.

Lord Justice Schiemann delivered a dissenting judgment, and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Waller.

Solicitors: Dixon & Templeton, Fordingbridge; Cartwright Cunningham Haselgrove & Co, Chingford.

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Challenging jurisdiction of foreign court

Turner v Grovit and Others

Before David Donaldson, QC

[Judgment February 23]

In the absence of a prior exclusive jurisdiction clause in its favour, it was inconsistent with well established principle for the courts of state A to decide preemptively whether the courts of state B have jurisdiction over a claim.

Mr David Donaldson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the motion of the plaintiff, Gregory Paul Turner, for orders that the defendants, Felix Fareed Ismail Grovit, Harada Ltd, a company incorporated under the law of Eire, and Changepoint SA, company incorporated under the law of Spain, be restrained until judgment or further order from:

(a) taking or procuring any other person or persons to take any step in an action commenced by one or more of the defendants in the Court of First Instance, Madrid, on or about October 21, 1998; and

(b) commencing or continuing, or procuring any other person to commence or continue, any further or other proceedings against the plaintiff in Spain or elsewhere other than in England and Wales, and discharging the interim injunction in the terms of (a) above granted by Mr Justice Pumfrey on December 22, 1998.

Mr David Bean, QC and Mr Andrew Tabachnik for the plaintiff; Mr Michael Supperstone, QC and Mr Anthony Snelson for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that from April 10, 1990 until his resignation on February 16, 1998 the plaintiff was employed as group solicitor of the Chequepoint International group of companies to which the second and third defendants belonged. It operated bureaux de change in Europe and elsewhere.

On November 3, 1997 the plaintiff was substantially relocated from London to the third defendant, Changepoint SA, in Madrid.

On December 22, 1997 the plaintiff's employment was transferred to Harada on unchanged terms and conditions.

On February 26, 1998 the plaintiff sent a fax to the first defendant resigning his employment, and on March 2, 1998 commenced proceedings in the industrial tribunal in London, in which he claimed damages for unfair and/or wrongful dismissal.

On September 10, 1998 Harada unsuccessfully challenged the jurisdiction of the employment tribunal to entertain the claim.

The tribunal claimed jurisdiction under article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (Schedule 1 to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1968) since "over the period of the whole contract the applicant worked habitually in London".

Harada had appealed to the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

On October 7, 1998 Changepoint commenced proceedings against the plaintiff in the Court of First Instance in Madrid, claiming substantial damages for negligence and/or breach of contract.

It was inconsistent with the principles of the Brussels Convention that an English court should be asked to decide pre- emptively whether a foreign court had competence to entertain the action commenced in that court according to the foreign court's rules of jurisdiction.

That was so whether the issue concerned the positive question of the availability of a particular ground of jurisdiction in the foreign forum, such as article 5(1), or the negative question of whether the foreign forum should decline or postpone jurisdiction under articles 21 or 22.

Continental Bank NA v Aeakos Compania Naviera SA ([1994] 1 WLR 588), in which the Court of Appeal upheld an injunction restraining further prosecution of prior proceedings in Greece brought by the defendants against the plaintiff bank under a loan agreement, could be distinguished on the basis that the loan agreement in *Aeakos* contained an exclusive jurisdiction clause in favour of the English courts.

Article 21 had to be overridden where a party sought to seise a foreign forum in breach of a contractual obligation recognised as binding by article 17.

Solicitors: Russell Jones & Walker; Dibb & Clegg.

Sentence includes supervision

Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison and Another, Ex parte Burke

The term "sentence" in article VII(4) of the United States of America Extradition Order (SI 1976 No 2144) referred to a term of imprisonment together with terms of a supervisory order.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Mitchell) so held on March 16, in dismissing Robert Anthony Burke's application for a writ of habeas corpus ad subjiciendum.

Mr Burke had been convicted of theft in the USA of US$6,174, and sentenced there to serve five years of imprisonment and five years of supervised release. After serving his term of imprisonment he had absconded to the UK. The US Government sought his extradition.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that article III(4) and article VII(4) in Schedule 1 to the 1976 Order should be read together. The offence was an extradition crime, *and four and a half years of supervised* release remained to be served. The supervisory term was not an ancillary order, but an integral part of the sentence imposed in the United States.

It was pertinent that there was no requirement for an offender to be unlawfully at large, pursuant to section 9(8)(b) of the Extradition Act 1989.

European Patent Court — Munich

Further technical effect of program

In re IBM's European Patent Application No 96 305 851.6

Case T 0935/97

Before P. K. J. van den Berg, Chairman, V. Di Cerbo and R. R. K. Zimmermann

[Judgment February 4]

A computer program product claimed by itself was not excluded from patentability under article 52(2) and (3) of the European Patent Convention if, when running on or loaded into a computer, it produced or was capable of producing a further technical effect which went beyond the normal physical interactions between the software and the hardware on which it was run.

Furthermore, with regard to the exclusions under article 52(2) and (3) it did not make any difference whether a computer program was claimed by itself or as a record on a carrier.

The Technical Board of Appeal of the European Patents Office so held in a reserved judgment when allowing the appeal of International Business Machines Corporation from the decision of the examining division of the *European Patents* Office dated June 18, 1997, refusing IBM's European patent application No 96 305 851.6.

The claims under appeal were directed towards:

(1) a computer program code stored on a computer readable medium which made the computer execute a procedure to display information within a first window, and which was responsive to obstruction of that information by a second window.

(2) a computer program element achieving the same,

(3) a computer program element *as claimed in (2) embodied on* a computer readable medium and

(4) a computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, where the program was to make the computer execute the procedure in (1).

Dr Roger Burt, representative, for IBM.

THE BOARD said that the reason for the examining board's refusal was that claims 7 to 10 defining a computer program product and element, respectively, were directed to a computer program as such, and, therefore, concerned subject-matter excluded from patentability under article 52(2)(c) and (3) of the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (Munich 1973).

That conclusion was clearly supported by the *Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office* Chapter C-IV, 2.3, adopted by the President of the European Patent Office in accordance with article 10(2)(a) of the European Patent *Convention, with effect from June* 1, 1978.

However, the *Guidelines* were not binding upon the Board of Appeal, which was concerned only with considering what, in its view, would be the proper interpretation of the exclusion from patentability of programs for computers under article 52(2) and (3) of the Convention.

The fact that only patent applications relating to programs for computers as such were excluded from patentability meant that patentability might be allowed for patent applications relating to programs for computers where the latter were not considered to be programs for computers as such.

In order to establish the scope of the exclusion, it was necessary to determine the exact meaning of the expression "as such".

Within the context of the application of the Convention the technical character of an invention was generally accepted as an essential requirement for its patentability. The exclusion from patentability of programs for computers as such might be construed to mean that such programs were considered to be mere abstract creations, lacking in technical character.

That meant that programs for computers *had to be considered as* patentable inventions when they had a technical character. The main problem for the interpretation of the exclusion was therefore to define the meaning of the feature "technical character".

For the purpose of interpreting the exclusion from patentability of programs for computers under article 52(2) and (3), it was assumed that programs for computers could not be considered as having a *technical character for the very reason* that they were programs for computers.

That meant that physical modifications of the hardware deriving from the execution of the instructions given by programs for computers could not per se constitute the technical character required for avoiding the exclusion of those programs.

Although such modifications might be considered to be technical, they were a common feature of all those programs for computers which had been made suitable for being run on a computer, and therefore could not be used to distinguish programs for computers with a technical character from programs for computers as such.

It was thus necessary to look elsewhere for technical character in that sense. It could be found in the further effects deriving from the execution, by the hardware, of the instructions given by the computer program.

Where those further effects had a technical character or where they caused the software to solve a technical problem, an invention which brought about such an effect might be considered an invention, which could, in principle, be the subject-matter of a patent.

It was only the further technical effect which mattered when considering the patentability requirements, and no importance should be attached to the specific further use of the system as a whole, that is, hardware plus software.

The Board considered the relevant case law, including *Computer-related invention/VICOM* (Case T 208/84) ([1987] OJ EPO 14).

Of particular importance to the instant case was the fact that, according to the case law, a claim directed to the use of a computer *program for the solution of* a technical problem could not be regarded as seeking protection for the program as such within the meaning of article 52(2)(c) and (3), even if the basic idea underlying the invention might be considered to reside in the computer program itself.

The claims under appeal were directed to a computer program product and had to be examined from the point of view of what might be called the "further technical effect", *which, if present, might lead to the* subject-matter not being excluded under articles 52(2) and (3) of the Convention.

Such products normally comprised a set of instructions which, when the program was loaded, made the hardware execute a specific procedure producing a particular result.

The effect only showed in physical reality when the program was being run. Thus the computer program product itself did not directly disclose that effect in physical reality. It only disclosed the effect when being run and consequently only possessed the potential to produce that effect.

That effect might also be technical, and consequently a computer program product might possess the potential to produce a further technical effect and as such would not be excluded from patentability under article 52(2) and (3).

The Board saw no good reason for distinguishing between a direct technical effect on the one hand and the potential to produce a technical effect, which might be considered as an indirect technical effect, on the other hand.

In contrast to the reasons given in the decision under appeal, the Board had derived the technical character of the computer program product from the potential technical effect the program possessed, which effect was set free and might reveal itself when the program was made to run on a computer.

A computer program product which, implicitly, comprised all the features of a patentable method, for operating a computer, for instance, was therefore in principle considered as not being excluded from patentability under article 52(2) and (3).

By analogy with the reasons in *VICOM*, the board found it illogical to grant a patent for both a method and the apparatus adapted for carrying out the same method, but not for the computer program product, which comprised all the features enabling the implementation of the method and which, when loaded in a computer, was indeed able to carry out that method.

RACING

Bradley rides on as Jockey Club considers options

By Alan Lee, Racing Correspondent

YESTERDAY, he was in the dock at Bow Street. Tomorrow, he may feel he is in the dock at Portman Square. Today, with a dash of bravado and a hint of the bizarre, Graham Bradley will return to what he does best, taking a single ride at Cheltenham with the unspoken awareness that it could be his last.

Bradley appeared before magistrates yesterday to answer a charge of conspiring to cheat — making money out of losing to order. Along with five other men accused of involvement in doping horses, he was summarily bailed to reappear on June 9 but, unlike the other five, he was not instructed to stay clear of racecourses. He has had to surrender his passport but he is free to ride on, though perhaps only for a day.

Even as the proceedings at Bow Street were concluding, the Jockey Club was convening a quorum of stewards to decide Bradley's immediate future. The jockey will appear before them tomorrow, knowing that the committee is empowered to suspend his licence until the criminal case is concluded.

Bradley, 38, does not intend to hide away. That much is clear from his decision to partner Country Star in the 4.00 race today. "I want to ride on and I'm looking forward to going to Cheltenham," he said. But he is wise enough to know that his long career, distinguished both by achievement and controversy, could be terminated before he is ready.

John Maxse, spokesman for the Jockey Club, confirmed that a three-man committee will review Bradley's licence to ride. "It is not a disciplinary hearing but the stewards will consider the impact of him being charged with a serious offence against horse racing. They have wide powers."

Maxse also clarified the prospect of an internal investigation into other aspects of the police case, particularly those involving the jockeys Ray Cochrane and Dean Gallagher, who were released without charge last month. "We don't rule out further action at the end of the criminal proceedings and I would not want to be tied down as to who that might involve," he said.

The Jockey Club will take legal advice on the implications of suspending Bradley tomorrow and the jockey will be legally represented. His defence yesterday was led by the Jockeys' Association, whose secretary, Michael Caulfield, claimed it would be wrong to deprive him of his livelihood.

"It is devastating that this has happened," Caulfield, who accompanied Bradley to court, said. "But the natural place for Brad to be, tomorrow and in the future, is on a horse and I do not believe that public confidence in him will be affected.

"There is an analogy in football, because Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were not stopped from playing while they defended charges made against them, and I feel strongly that Graham should be allowed to go on riding."

Bradley's colleagues are standing by him. Tony McCoy, the champion jockey, was distressed for his friend yesterday. "Brad has been a great help to me throughout my career and he is one of the most popular guys in the weighing-room. I know we are all behind him."



Bertolini sprints clear of, from left to right, Kalidasa, Indiana Legend and Undeterred in the European Free Handicap at Newmarket yesterday

Free enterprise pays dividends for Gosden

By Chris McGrath

JOHN GOSDEN is finding quite enough winners on his own account without them falling into his lap, but at Newmarket yesterday he confessed that Bertolini had won the Victor Chandler European Free Handicap almost by accident. The trainer, who has made such an impressive start to the season, only decided to go for the race on Saturday morning, when learning that it had cut up sufficiently to be reopened — and for him to take a chance with the Danzig colt's stamina.

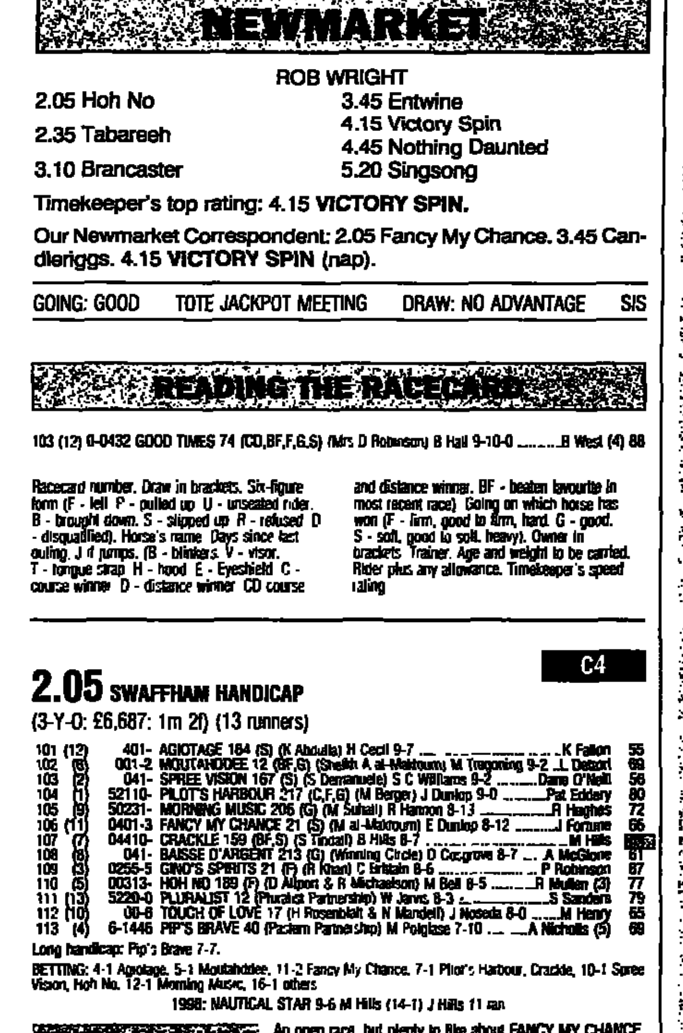
This lack of conviction found its way into the market, where Bertolini drifted from 3-1 to 5-1, but did not infect the horse himself, who quickened better than Indiana Legend and was always holding his slightly laboured challenge. "It was an afterthought," Gosden said. "We thought of him as more of a sprinter, and I still wouldn't mind dropping him back to six furlongs. He wouldn't stay a mile in a taxi."

So the Free Handicap's revival as a classic trial, thanks to Desert Prince last year, appears a fleeting one. Gosden, however, could be going from strength to strength. He had already sustained his good form when Swan Knight, a Sadler's Wells colt, won the first division of the Wood Ditton Stakes — traditionally used to launch some decent three-year-olds. Though Frankie Dettori alarmed many with his lack of urgency at the finish, he prevailed in a photo. "He's the least fit horse I've run," Gosden said.

The second division fell to Sweet Emotion, while Cassandra Go followed in the hoofprints of Rebecca Sharp two years ago by winning the Geoffrey Barling Fillies' Maiden for Geoff Wragg. He will train her for the Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Leading lady on the card, however, was Shiva, whose knee problems had restricted her to one appearance — a Kempton maiden success last May — before the Weatherbys Earl of Sefton Stakes. She betrayed her inexperience by hanging before picking up really well to become the first Japanese-bred group winner in Britain.

Henry Cecil, her trainer, was disappointed to report that Ballet Master had been cast in his box and misses the Feilden Stakes today. Highlight of the card is notionally the reappearance of Mujahid, the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas favourite, in the City Index Craven Stakes. A wet forecast menaced him overnight, however, and Mutaahab has been declared effectively as a reserve in the same ownership. Angus Gold, racing manager to Hamdan al-Maktoum, said: "If it poured and the ground became very soft, there is a chance Mujahid would not run, in which case Mutaahab would."



NEWMARKET

ROB WRIGHT

2.05 Hoh No
2.35 Tabareeh
3.10 Brancaster
3.45 Entwine
4.15 Victory Spin
4.45 Nothing Daunted
5.20 Singsong

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.15 **VICTORY SPIN.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.05 Fancy My Chance. 3.45 Candleriggs. 4.15 **VICTORY SPIN** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ....B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell P - pulled up U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up R - refused D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap H - hood E - Eyeshield C - course winner D - distance winner CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race) Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

2.05 SWAFFHAM HANDICAP (C4)

(3-Y-O: £6,687: 1m 2f) (13 runners)

101 (12) 401- AGIOTAGE 184 (S) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-7 ....K Fallon 55
102 (6) 001-2 MOUTAHDDEE 12 (BF,G) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 9-2 ....L Dettori 69
103 (2) 041- SPREE VISION 167 (S) (S Demanuele) S C Williams 9-2 ....Dane O'Neill 56
104 (1) 52110- PILOT'S HARBOUR 217 (C,F,G) (M Berger) J Dunlop 9-0 ....Pat Eddery 80
105 (9) 50231- MORNING MUSIC 206 (G) (M Suhail) R Hannon 8-13 ....R Hughes 72
106 (11) 0401-3 FANCY MY CHANCE 21 (S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-12 ....J Fortune 66
107 (7) 04410- CRACKLE 159 (BF,S) (S Tindall) B Hills 8-7 ....M Hills [illegible]
108 (8) 041- BAISSE D'ARGENT 213 (G) (Winning Circle) D Cosgrove 8-7 ....A McGlone 61
109 (3) 0255-5 GINO'S SPIRITS 21 (F) (R Khan) C Britain 8-6 ....P Robinson 67
110 (5) 00313- HOH NO 189 (F) (D Allport & R Michaelson) M Bell 8-5 ....R Mullen (3) 77
111 (13) 5220-0 PLURALIST 12 (Pluralist Partnership) W Jarvis 8-3 ....S Sanders 79
112 (10) 00-6 TOUCH OF LOVE 17 (H Rosenblatt & N Mandell) J Noseda 8-0 ....M Henry 65
113 (4) 6-1446 PIP'S BRAVE 40 (Paclam Partnership) M Polglase 7-10 ....A Nicholls (5) 69

Long handicap: Pip's Brave 7-7.

BETTING: 4-1 Agiotage, 5-1 Moutahddee, 11-2 Fancy My Chance, 7-1 Pilot's Harbour, Crackle, 10-1 Spree Vision, Hoh No, 12-1 Morning Music, 16-1 others

1998: NAUTICAL STAR 9-6 M Hills (14-1) J Hills 11 ran

FORM ANALYSIS An open race, but plenty to like about FANCY MY CHANCE. He concluded last season with a 3½l victory over Salford Flyer at Yarmouth (1m), and began this term with a 2l third to Kingston Venture at Doncaster (1m 2f). He is likely to be sharper for the run and will not be inconvenienced by any softening in the ground (some rain forecast). Dangers abound. Agiotage won a modest race at Redcar with ease (7f) but has to contend with top weight and also steps up significantly in trip. Moutahddee's success came in minor race at Thirsk last autumn (1m) and he was well held by Nowhere to Exit in a Haydock handicap on his seasonal debut (1m 2f). Pilot's Harbour looked a horse of some promise when winning a mile nursery on fast going here last August but was subsequently well beaten on slower ground at Doncaster. Spree Vision has plenty more on than when winning a Newcastle maiden, but Crackle will not be put off by any softening in the ground. Of those further down the weights, Pluralist makes most appeal. He was hampered at a vital stage when eighth to Tactful Remark at Kempton 12 days ago and could be better than his finishing position suggests.

2.35 FEILDEN STAKES (C4)

(3-Y-O: £12,668: 1m 110yd) (9 runners)

201 (8) 214-5 CANTA KE BRAVE 8 (BF,D,F) (Dwayne Woods) S Woods 8-11 ....L Dettori 86
202 (3) 1201-0 FAIR FLIGHT 12 (D,G) (A Sultan) E Dunlop 8-11 ....K Fallon 93
203 (4) 435-2 GOLD ACADEMY 19 (G Teo) R Hannon 8-11 ....Dane O'Neill 74
204 (7) 51- GOLDEN SNAKE 216 (D,G) (M Obaida) B Hills 8-11 ....M Hills 86
205 (9) 15563- HOUSEMASTER 173 (F) (Highclere Thoroughbred) M Bell 8-11 ....T Quinn 86
206 (1) 01- MARKAN 271 (F) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-11 ....J Fortune 84
207 (5) 2-1 TABAREEH 21 (D,S) (H al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 8-11 ....R Hills 84
208 (6) 23-10 YAKAREEM 26 (H Al-Mutawa) K Mahdi 8-11 ....J Quinn [illegible]
209 (2) 5410- MISS AMANPURI 217 (C,F) (J Pearce) G Wragg 8-6 ....M Roberts 93

BETTING: 3-1 Markan, 9-2 Tabareeh, 5-1 Golden Snake, 7-1 Gold Academy, Miss Amanpuri, 8-1 Fair Flight, Housemaster, 10-1 others.

1998: BORDER ARROW 8-11 L Dettori (11-4) I Balding 6 ran

FORM ANALYSIS Fair Flight was going the right way at the end of last season but his seasonal debut at Kempton told us little. He lost his action and finished well beaten. He remains a live contender, however. Cante Ke Brave was soundly beaten at Ripon on his return and must improve, as must Tabareeh, successful in a Doncaster maiden (1m) last time but with plenty more to do here. Housemaster was a creditable 8l third of six to Commander Collins in the Racing Post Trophy (1m) last season, but preference is for GOLDEN SNAKE. He impressed when readily landing a Doncaster maiden (1m) last autumn and looks the type to go on to better things this term. Markan was made favourite for the Chesham Stakes at Royal Ascot on his debut but was all at sea on the soft ground. However, he redeemed himself on better going in a valuable race at Newbury next time (7f). He is another useful prospect.

3.10 CITY INDEX CRAVEN STAKES (C4)

(Group III: 3-Y-O: £20,000: 1m) (8 runners)

301 (4) 1151- MUJAHID 180 (C,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-12 ....R Hills [illegible]
302 (6) 45111- MUTAAHAB 200 (D,F,S) (H al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-12 ....K Fallon 109
303 (3) 3- ANSCHLUSS 183 (S Manana) C Brittain 8-9 ....P Robinson 62
304 (1) 11- BRANCASTER 174 (F,S) (Royal Ascot Racing) P Chapple-Hyam 8-9 .T Quinn 85
305 (7) 2212- COMPTON ADMIRAL 237 (BF,G) (E Penser) G A Butler 8-9 ....L Dettori 102
306 (2) 2 DEBBIE'S WARNING 21 (Greenfield Stud) K Mahdi 8-9 ....J Quinn 32
307 (5) 3215-1 MENSA 8 (F,S) (Mrs B Lockey) M Tompkins 8-9 ....S Drowne 102
308 (8) 3435-2 WALLACE 12 (J Lazzari) R Hannon 8-9 ....R Hughes 98

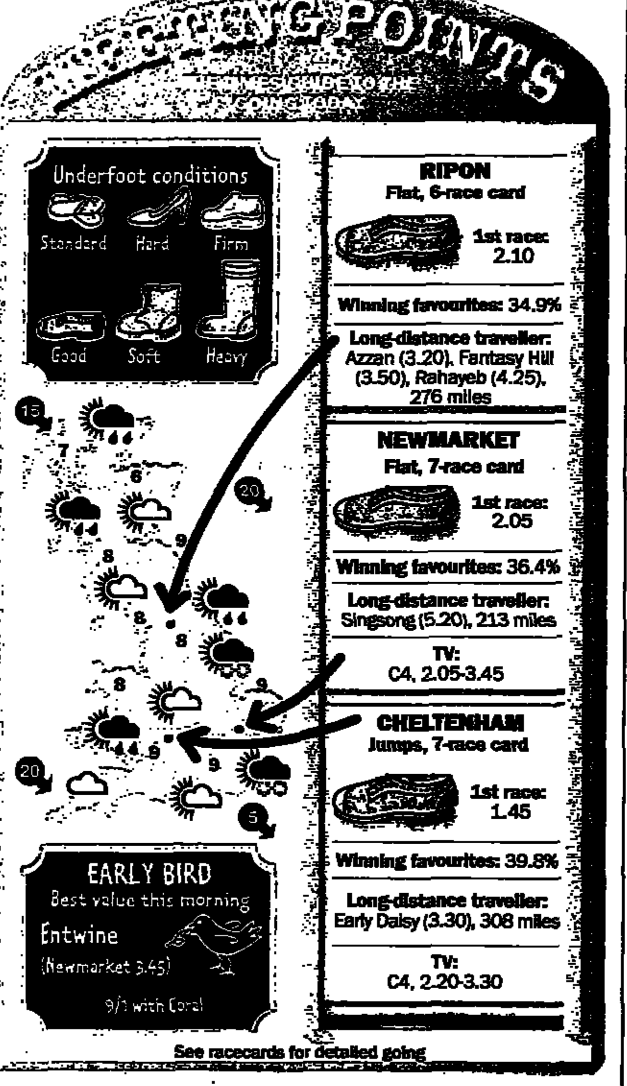
BETTING: 4-5 Mujahid, 4-1 Brancaster, 11-2 Mutaahab, 7-1 Compton Admiral, 14-1 Mensa, 20-1 Wallace, 33-1 Debbie's Warning, 50-1 Anschluss.

1998: XAAR 8-12 O Peslier (8-11 fav) A Fabre (Fr) 6 ran

FORM ANALYSIS MUJAHID, last season's leading two-year-old on the strength of his victory in the Dewhurst Stakes (7f), is a clear favourite for the 2,000 Guineas and should win this is if that rating is anywhere near accurate. Connections suggested yesterday there could be a doubt about his participation if the ground were to become significantly softer, but given that he lines up he looks the likely winner. If he does run, Mutaahab would probably miss the race, although should Mujahid step down he would be an able deputy. Brancaster won a Haydock maiden by eight lengths on his debut (7f) and followed up with a determined short head victory in a much better race at Newbury next time. He clearly has ability but it remains to be seen whether he out of the top drawer. Compton Admiral is another to have shown a solid level of form but, like Brancaster, has a bit to find against Mujahid. Mensa won well at Ripon last time but this is much tougher.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
H Cecil	25	101	24.8	K Fallon	23	86	26.7
J Dunlop	21	121	17.4	R Hills	26	112	23.2
L Cumani	18	117	15.4	L Dettori	35	167	21.0
A Stewart	5	33	15.2	Pat Eddery	35	177	19.8
R Armstrong	8	58	13.8	J Quinn	10	51	19.6
P Cole	9	72	12.5	S Sanders	8	51	15.7
G Wragg	6	49	12.2	Dane O'Neill	8	60	13.3
Sir M Stoute	9	77	11.7	J Weaver	7	65	10.8
P Haslam	3	26	11.5	M Hills	14	131	10.7
R Hannon	19	167	11.4	O Peslier	3	29	10.3



3.45 BLUE SQUARE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (C4)

(3-Y-O: £7,772: 6f) (15 runners)

401 (12) 412- MITCHAM 188 (BF,D,F) (T Mills) T Mills 9-7 ....T Quinn 89
402 (3) 4213- MUNJIZ 189 (BF,D,S) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 9-4 ....M Hills 84
403 (10) 6261- KINAN 213 (D,G) (H al-Maktoum) R Armstrong 9-4 ....R Hills 88
404 (9) 14105- CUBISM 198 (D,F,G) (K Lim) J Hills 9-1 ....L Dettori 70
405 (8) 210-0 SIR JACK 7 (D,G) (Lucayan Stud) J Noseda 9-1 ....O Peslier 76
406 (5) 4110- ENTWINE 187 (F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) J Fanshawe 9-0 ....R Cochrane 71
407 (7) 20113- AEGEAN FLAME 262 (F,G) (Theobalds Stud) B Meehan 9-0 ....Pat Eddery 83
408 (1) 052-1 CANDLERIGGS 12 (D,G) (Right Angle Club) E Dunlop 8-13 ....K Fallon 84
409 (4) 54106- TOP ORDER 288 (S) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-10 ....J Fortune 76
410 (15) 1040-0 CHARLENE LACY 12 (S) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 8-6 ....D Sweeney [illegible]
411 (13) 2810-2 RANAAN 12 (A Al Shafar) M Channon 8-5 ....S Drowne 84
412 (2) 0010-0 KILMEENA LAD 12 (D,S) (Mrs J Cleary) E Wheeler 8-3 ....S Carson (5) 76
413 (14) 021-0 SEVEN SPRINGS 40 (BF,D) (N Chapman) R Hollinshead 8-1 ....J Quinn 81
414 (6) 13000- SWYNFORD WELCOME 182 (D,F) (Qualitair) T Etherington 8-0 ....A Polli (3) 89
415 (11) 51316- SOUND'S ACE 160 (F,S) (P Doom) D Shaw 7-10 ....A Nicholls (5) 85

Long handicap: Sound's Ace 7-9.

BETTING: 9-2 Candleriggs, 6-1 Entwine, 7-1 Mitcham, Kinan, Munjiz, 10-1 Ranaan, 12-1 Cubism, Top Order, 16-1 Sir Jack, Kilmeena Lad, 20-1 others.

1998: RIOJA 8-4 G Carter (14-1) T Tate 15 ran

FORM ANALYSIS CANDLERIGGS sets a good standard on the strength of his recent Kempton success over this trip (Ranaan 4lb better for 1½l, Kilmeena Lad and Charlene Lacy well beaten) and looks to have a sound chance of following up. He is drawn in stall one when low numbers look to have had an advantage, whereas Ranaan is in stall 13. Munjiz was probably flattered by his second to Stravinsky at York and a feeble display on his latest run raises doubts about his attitude. Plenty of others have the potential to make up into smart sprint handicappers, notably Mitcham, Kinan and Cubism, and additionally Entwine could be a live prospect. She was twice successful over 5f last term, including in a competitive nursery here, and should not be troubled by the step up in distance.

4.15 ALEX SCOTT MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,533: 7f) (14 runners)

501 (4) 00- ARABIAN MOON 190 (S Suhail) C Brittain 8-11 ....P Robinson 52
502 (9) 0- CRISIS 158 (Mrs A Silver) L Cumani 8-11 ....G Sparkes (7) —
503 (3) 3- DATE 282 (A Ali) E Dunlop 8-11 ....K Fallon 86
504 (1) 0- EDIFICE 198 (T Takasaki) A Stewart 8-11 ....T G McLaughlin 31
505 (2) GEMINI GUEST (J Guest) G Margarson 8-11 ....S Sanders —
506 (11) MUKAYED (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-11 ....R Hills —
507 (5) 02- NATIONAL ANTHEM 177 (Mrs D Haynes) Sir M Stoute 8-11 ....T Quinn 70
508 (10) 52-2 NORTHERN SPRING 19 (BF) (Fieldspring) M Heaton-Ellis 8-11 ....S Drowne 80
509 (7) REASON WHY (Reason Why Partnership) Bob Jones 8-11 ....R Cochrane —
510 (13) SING CHEONG (H Chung) G Chung 8-11 ....O Urbina —
511 (8) 000- SKY OF HOPE 174 (Lucayan Stud) R Hannon 8-11 ....O Peslier 35
512 (12) 0232- SWALLOW FLIGHT 178 (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 8-11 ....M Roberts 84
513 (14) 6 TROUBLE 10 (S Cohn) B Hills 8-11 ....M Hills —
514 (6) 2- VICTORY SPIN 238 (M Dawson) L Cumani 8-11 ....L Dettori [illegible]

BETTING: 5-2 Swallow Flight, 7-2 Date, 5-1 Mukayed, 11-2 National Anthem, 6-1 Victory Spin, 12-1 others.

1998: DIKTAT 8-11 D Holland (6-4 fav) D Loder 17 ran

4.45 EBF STUNTNEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,468: 5f) (10 runners)

601 (10) ALFAILAK (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) M Channon 8-11 ....T Quinn —
602 (7) 2 COCO DE MER 12 (Ms J Greenacre) A Jarvis 8-11 ....D Sweeney [illegible]
603 (9) DEEP BLUE (Mrs B Cohen) Dr J Scargill 8-11 ....R Cochrane —
604 (2) GREAT WHITE (I Wight) R Hannon 8-11 ....R Hughes —
605 (4) I PROMISE YOU (Mrs C Brittain) C Brittain 8-11 ....P Robinson —
606 (1) 5 LOVE LANE 8 (M Doyle) M Johnston 8-11 ....J Carroll —
607 (5) NOTHING DAUNTED (A Ali) E Dunlop 8-11 ....K Fallon —
608 (6) RISK FREE (Mrs P Steen) N Littmoden 8-11 ....T G McLaughlin —
609 (8) SHEER SABO (R Arculli) B Hills 8-11 ....M Hills —
610 (3) SPEEDFIT FREE (J Guest) G Margarson 8-11 ....L Dettori —

BETTING: 5-2 Coco De Mer, 4-1 Sheer Sabo, 5-1 Alfailak, Nothing Daunted, 8-1 Love Lane, 10-1 others.

1998: QUEENSLAND STAR 8-11 G Carter (5-4 fav) J Berry 5 ran

5.20 SPORTSLINE CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £5,317: 5f) (8 runners)

1 (4) 21 BARRINGER 5 (D,S) (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 9-4 ....J D Smith (3) 40
2 (6) 1 SINGSONG 19 (D,S) (G Tanner) J Berry 9-2 ....J Carroll 50
3 (8) 1 FIRST BLOOD 15 (D,S) (Goodfellows Racing) T Mills 8-12 ....T Quinn 46
4 (3) 3 SAAFEND BOY 12 (JBR Leisure/South-Western) R Hannon 8-12 Dane O'Neill [illegible]
5 (5) ALFIE LEE (J T B Racing) C Allen 8-9 ....N Carlisle —
6 (2) ANTHEMION (Lord Scarsdale) P Haslam 8-9 ....J Weaver —
7 (1) DONT GO MAD (High Havens Stables) K Burke 8-9 ....K Fallon —
8 (7) 03 FRENCH FANCY 10 (R West) C Dwyer 8-7 ....D Meernagh (5) 27

BETTING 13-8 Barringer, 3-1 Singsong, 4-1 First Blood, Saafend Boy, 16-1 Dont Go Mad, 20-1 others.

1998: SPEEDY JAMES 9-4 O Peslier (5-6 fav) J Berry 5 ran



CHELTENHAM

ROB WRIGHT

1.45 All Gong (nb)
2.20 Castle Owen
2.55 Lady Cricket
3.30 Shuildante
4.00 Country Star
4.35 El Freddie
5.10 Last Option

Carl Evans: 5.10 Struggles Glory.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.45 ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE NOVICES HURDLE

(£5,077: 2m 1f) (17 runners)

1 -14110 ALL GONG 30 (CD,G,S) (A Speelman) N Henderson 5-11-8 ....M A Fitzgerald 84
2 143231 LAWAHIK 19 (D,S) (J Joseph) C Mann 5-11-8 ....R Dunwoody 119
3 U15515 MUKDAR 118 (D,F,S) (A & A Cutler and S Wood) K Bailey 5-11-8 ....R Wakley 106
4 4/1101 SAMAKAAN 10 (G,S) (Lady Harris) Miss V Williams 6-11-8 ....N Williamson 121
5 2-201 STAR OF DUNGANNON 48 (T,G) (Mrs L Sewell) M Pipe 6-11-8 ....A P McCoy 85
6 261312 PIETRO BEMBO 8 (BF,D,G,S) (F Miller) J Akehurst 5-11-4 ....T J Murphy [illegible]
7 006111 MISCONDUCT 27 (D,S) (Playmates) Mrs M Jones 5-11-3 ....A Maguire 78
8 112236 NAVARRE SAMSON 20 (T,D,F,G) (Winton Bloodstock) P Hobbs 4-11-2 R Widger (5) 106
9 3220 BROCKTON GLEN 27 (Mrs D La Trobe) R Buckler 6-11-0 ....B Powell —
10 DARING BID 1040F (Waterhall Racing) Mrs L Wadham 6-11-0 ....J Tizzard —
11 KNOCKAUN WOOD (Mrs T Tipper) G Balding 5-11-0 ....B Fenton —
12 500/2- NASONE 511 (S) (J Plackett) J Gifford 8-11-0 ....L Aspell —
13 5-3302 NEMISTO 51 (Nemisto Partnership) Miss H Knight 5-11-0 ....M Batchelor (5) 98
14 20 PARTY ROMANCE 35 (T) (Mrs G Roberts) R Frost 5-11-0 ....J Frost 64
15 5 PERCHING 19 (J Plackett) J Gifford 5-11-0 ....P Hide 65
16 00 UNDER THE THUMB 138 (M Miller) C Morlock 5-11-0 ....J R Kavanagh —
17 34 LONG ROOM LADY 23 (The Yes,No,Wait, Sorries X) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-9 .C Llewellyn 41

BETTING: 11-4 Samakaan, 9-2 Star Of Dungannon, Pietro Bembo, 5-1 All Gong, 6-1 Lawahik, 10-1 Navarre Samson, 12-1 Misconduct, 14-1 others.

1998: LANNKARAN 5-11-5 R Johnson (2-1 fav) T Forster 11 ran

2.20 CONCORD CLASSIFILE HANDICAP HURDLE (C4)

(£10,845: 3m 110yd) (17 runners)

1 112110 FLYING GUNNER 30 (D,S) (Mrs R Sian) D Nicholson 8-12-0 ....R Johnson 116
2 P/3262 SWEET GLOW 12 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (M Pipe) M Pipe 12-11-10 ....A P McCoy 121
3 P4-320 EBULLIENT EQUINAME 30 (T,G,S) (L Wilson) N Henderson 8-11-10 .M A Fitzgerald 120
4 652350 DOM BELTRANO 29 (D,S) (C Wright) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-8 ....C Llewellyn 119
5 14-P50 GOOD LORD MURPHY 30 (B,G,S) (Country Side) P Hobbs 7-11-6 ....R Dunwoody 99
6 022F24 BRACKENHEATH 26 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Grist) D Grissell 8-11-2 ....N Williamson 124
7 -11140 CASTLE OWEN 29 (G,S) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 7-11-2 ....R Thornton [illegible]
8 -4214P COURT CIRCULAR 103 (V,D,F,S) (P Lees) W Clay 10-10-13 ....G Tormey 106
9 P-P101 TILTY 28 (V,F,G,S) (Cheadle Racing) A Streeter 9-10-11 ....Gary Lyons 102
10 22-FU0 NIRVANA PRINCE 19 (D,F,S) (D Portman) B Preece 10-10-9 ....A Maguire 84
11 P-3406 FAR DAWN 34 (F,G) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 6-10-9 ....C Maude 106
12 430531 ANOTHER NIGHT 15 (D,F,S) (Sunset Partnership) P Murphy 5-10-1 Mr R Fornstal (5) 117
13 F42235 TONKA 9 (S) (Mrs C Webster) D Gandolfo 7-10-0 ....D Leahy 119
14 13-600 OVER THE BECK 54 (D,F,G) (R Collins) J Jefferson 6-10-0 ....L Wyer 107
15 011132 EQUITY'S DARLING 15 (B,BF,S) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 7-10-0 .M Batchelor (5) 122
16 /20-26 SAN GIORGIO 152 (C,D,F,S) (P Kelsall) A Hobbs 10-10-0 ....T Dascombe 107
17 U224P/ ROMANY CREEK 742 (BF,D,F,G,S) (A Thompson) J Pearce 10-10-0 ...T J Murphy —

Long handicap: Over The Beck 9-13, Equity's Darling 9-12, San Giorgio 9-12, Romany Creek 9-0.

BETTING: 13-2 Another Night, 8-1 Brackenheath, Castle Owen, Dom Beltrano, Flying Gunner, Good Lord Murphy, 9-1 Equity's Darling, Tilty, 10-1 Sweet Glow, 12-1 Ebullient Equiname, 20-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

Tilty ran on gamely when making all at Huntingdon (3m 2f) last time but he tends to sulk when unable to dominate and that may prove the case here as Brackenheath (not at his best this term) and Tonka (unproven over so far) also like to force the pace. ANOTHER NIGHT is suited by an end-to-end gallop and stayed on stoutly to beat the in-form Equity's Darling 4l in what looked a competitive contest at Ascot (3m) last month. He meets the runner-up on only 2lb worse terms and looks the one to beat. Sweet Glow (6th), Good Lord Murphy (8th), Flying Gunner (10th) and Ebullient Equiname (15th) all made little impression in the staying handicap (3m 2f) at the Festival meeting last month but Castle Owen is a potential fly in the ointment now that he is stepped up in trip. Dom Beltrano, unplaced over an inadequate trip latest, also has each-way claims.

2.55 CHELTENHAM MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (C4)

(£10,796: 2m 5f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 1-1104 LADY CRICKET 7 (B,D,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-12-0 ....A P McCoy 147
2 353640 AMITGE 28 (B,F,G) (P Lake & H Lake) M Pipe 5-10-3 ....B Fenton [illegible]
3 P50430 SOUND APPEAL 28 (C,G) (R & J Fidler) G McCourt 5-10-2 ....E Husband 123
4 1-3333 COOL SPRING 23 (B,D,G,S) (P Winkworth) P Winkworth 7-10-0 .. O McPhail (5) 138
5 4-160F HALONA 34 (G,S) (Mrs Z Clark) C Morlock 9-10-0 ....Mr S Sporborg (7) 115
6 310331 JESSOLLE 12 (F,G,S) (C Fleet) N Richards 7-10-0 ....Mr J Crowley (5) 135
7 1-2113 SKIPCARL 50 (S) (J Sunley) Miss H Knight 7-10-0 ....M Batchelor (5) 121
8 112411 FLAGSHIP THERESE 19 (D,F,G,S) (A Brady) P Nicholls 5-10-0 ....J Tizzard 98
9 2F3-21 VICAR'S VASE 154 (G,S) (G Milne) K Bailey 6-10-0 ....Mr R Fornstal (5) 115
10 110352 ALTA 34 (G) (Alchemists) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-0 ....C Llewellyn 117
11 0P-646 SALLY SCALLY 189 (BF) (Mrs P Hunt) Miss I Foustok 7-10-0 ....B Powell 78

Long handicap: Cool Spring 9-6, Halona 9-4, Jessolle 9-3, Skipcarl 8-11, Flagship Therese 8-11, Vicar's Vase 8-9, Alta 8-9, Sally Scally 7-5.

BETTING: 6-4 Lady Cricket, 5-1 Flagship Therese, 13-2 Sound Appeal, 8-1 Amitge, 9-1 Cool Spring, 10-1 Halona, Jessolle, Skipcarl, 12-1 Alta, 16-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

Lady Cricket's presence gives this a lopsided look with eight of the runners between 6lb and 37lb out of the handicap proper. However, whether Lady Cricket will be the chief beneficiary is debatable as she has had only a week to recover from her exploits at Aintree (3m) when she was a very creditable fourth to Papo Kharisma (beaten about 4l). It could be that SOUND APPEAL, who runs off her correct mark, takes advantage. A smart juvenile in the first half of last season (she won at Kempton, Ascot and at Cheltenham) before being sidelined by injury, she has gradually been returning to her best this term and was far from disgraced when eleventh in the County Hurdle here last month (the inconsistent Amitge was back in 21st) when 7lb "wrong". Sound Appeal has been crying out for this trip and will be ideally suited by the expected good going. Flagship Therese confirmed she had a bright future when winning a similar race to this at Newbury (beat Hot 'N' Saucy 3½l), but will race off a 25lb higher mark here. Alta, who loves to hear her hooves rattle, and Skipcarl are both likeable types although they also have it to do at the weights.

3.30 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK SALES/EBF MARES ONLY OPEN NH FLAT FINAL (C4)

(£14,070. 2m 1f) (16 runners)

1 2 CHOPINS REVOLUTION 35 (Mme J Baldanza) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0 J Goldstein (3) 73
2 00 DAYS DESTINY 40 (A Day) J Mullins 5-11-0 ....Mr D Turner (7) 63
3 54 DEADLY DORIS 77 (S Hey & S Lodlam) N Smith 5-11-0 ....B Powell 90
4 0 DUVET 23 (R Matthews) Miss K George 7-11-0 ....J R Kavanagh —
5 06 ELEGANT MAUD 22 (T) (G Roe) G Roe 5-11-0 ....S Graham (7) 57
6 4/35 GOOD JOB 23 (M Green) C Mann 7-11-0 ....R Dunwoody 69
7 360 GULSHAN 29 (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0 ....C Llewellyn 85
8 324 KENTFORD BUSY B 78 (D Bare) J Mullins 5-11-0 ....A Bates (3) [illegible]
9 43 ROMAN UPROAR 23 (Mrs K Walton) M Hammond 5-11-0 ....N Horrocks (3) 33
10 6-54 SALLY LIGHTFOOT 23 (Mrs R Perkins) P Dalton 5-11-0 ....R Thornton 62
11 5-23 SARA BELLA 132 (Mrs S Kavanagh) H Kavanagh 6-11-0 ....A Maguire 67
12 2 SHUILDANTE 45 (Mrs K Gaffney & Mrs A Stevenson) J Jefferson 5-11-0 ....L Wyer 34
13 4 TICKLE THE TILLER 124 (W Shand Kydd) P R Webber 6-11-0 ....J A McCarthy —
14 1 LOST THE PLOT 52 (S) (Kenner Partnership) D Arbuthnot 4-10-12 .... D Gallagher 81
15 251 MILADY ANA 23 (S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 4-10-12 ....R Massey 63
16 02 EARLY DAISY 73 (R Cameron) R Allan 4-10-9 ....B Storey 27

BETTING: 9-4 Lost The Plot, 4-1 Milady Ana, 6-1 Gulshan, 8-1 Chopins Revolution, 10-1 Shuildante, 12-1 Good Job, Early Daisy, 14-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

LOST THE PLOT was sent off a 25-1 chance for her debut at Fontwell (2m 2f) but belied those odds in style — coming through smoothly from well off the pace to beat Brandy Snap 6l with Lady Marlow (who had easily beaten Kentford Busy B and Tickle The Tiller on her previous start) back in third. There does not look to be anything wrong with that form as Milady Anna, 12l back in fifth and no better off, went on to win decisively at Uttoxeter (where Roman Uproar, Sally Lightfoot and Good Job were second, third and fifth respectively) while Gulshan, sixth at Fontwell, beaten 16l, has subsequently finished a creditable eleventh in the Weatherbys Champion Bumper here last month. Lost The Plot seems sure to improve for that initial experience and can follow up. Gulshan, who meets her on 9lb better terms, should finish a lot closer this time and jockey booking indicates she is better fancied than Chopins Revolution, her stablemate. Shuildante shaped promisingly on her debut at Newcastle when a staying-on second to Wynyard Damsel at Newcastle but a line through Roman Uproar, who was less than a length back in fourth, suggests she will have to show significant improvement. Sara Bella was given a considerate introduction at Hereford and should win races in time.



4.00 NICHOLSON HOLMAN CUP HANDICAP CHASE

(£8,247: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 -25143 HURRICANE LAMP 28 (D,G,S) (Mr & Mrs F Welch) D Nicholson 8-12-0 R Johnson 125
2 -24114 COUNTRY STAR 28 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Towler) E L James 8-11-5 ....G Bradley 115
3 223102 DANTES CAVALIER 10 (D,F,G,S) (Exors late W Dore) D Gandolfo 9-11-3 .R Dunwoody [illegible]
4 2B5-30 SUBLIME FELLOW 28 (D,F,G,S) (Rory McGrath) N Henderson 9-11-3 .M A Fitzgerald 103
5 121411 BUCKLAND LAD 27 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Hepburn) D Grissell 8-10-10 ....B Fenton 128
6 5F/524 KINGS CHERRY 9 (S) (T Swaffield) J Old 11-10-8 ....C Llewellyn 103

BETTING: 9-4 Buckland Lad, 7-2 Country Star, 9-2 Sublime Fellow, 5-1 Hurricane Lamp, Dantes Cavalier, 10-1 Kings Cherry.

1998: TIDEBROOK 8-11-13 N Williamson (11-10 fav) K Bailey 5 ran

4.35 MINSTER LOVELL NOVICES CHASE

(£6,840: 2m 5f) (7 runners)

1 211/31 EL FREDDIE 20 (F,G) (M Lovatt) J Old 9-11-12 ....T J Murphy 82
2 -1112P FLAXLEY WOOD 26 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs D La Trobe) R Buckler 8-11-12 ....B Powell 84
3 6-2314 INN AT THE TOP 87 (F,G) (Mrs S Blakeley) J R Turner 7-11-12 ....R Supple 99
4 14P322 SON OF ANSHAN 20 (F,G,S) (F Sainsbury) Mrs M Jones 6-11-12 ....A Maguire 113
5 112312 VILLAGE KING 6 (C,D,F,G) (Capt E Edwards-Heathcote) P Hobbs 6-11-12 R Dunwoody [illegible]
6 51P0-3 BOUCHASSON 49 (S) (A Stennett) P Hobbs 6-11-2 ....R Widger (5) 65
7 236F64 CALVARO 38 (B Naylor) J Gifford 8-11-2 ....L Aspell 79

BETTING: 6-4 Village King, 7-2 Flaxley Wood, 9-2 Son Of Anshan, 6-1 El Freddie, 7-1 Inn At The Top, 14-1 Bouchasson, 50-1 Calvaro

1998: MAHLER 8-11-12 C Llewellyn (2-1) N Twiston-Davies 5 ran

5.10 BAULKING GREEN HUNTERS CHASE

(£3,599: 3m 2f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 1-R323 LAST OPTION 28 (F,G,S) (R Tate) R Tate 7-12-7 ....Mrs F Needham (3) 107
2 1P-1FP STALBRIDGE BILL 28 (CD,G,S) (L Jenkinson) J Dufosee 9-12-7 .Mr A Honeyball (7) 97
3 1-4222 ALL WEATHER 20 (C,F) (M Wilesmith) Mrs D Wilesmith 13-12-3 .Mr M Wilesmith (7) 105
4 11-321 SECRET BAY 9 (F,G,S) (S Dent) C Dennis 10-12-3 ....Mr S Swiers [illegible]
5 4P-321 BENDOR MARK 32P (G,S) (R Hand) Mrs M Hand 10-12-0 ....Mrs A Hand (7) —
6 P26305 HIGHWAY FIVE 12P (T,G,S) (Susan Brooke) Lady S Brooke 11-12-0 Miss E James (7) 82
7 5012/4 MR INVADER 57 (G,S) (M Boddington) N Gaselee 12-12-0 .. Mr J Trice-Rolph (3) 65
8 113-44 REIGN DANCE 16 (F,S) (Mrs D McCarthy) Mrs D McCarthy 8-12-0 Mr T McCarthy 29
9 52U-23 RUSTY BRIDGE 40 (C,F,G,S) (I Johnson) Mrs S Johnson 12-12-0 Mr R Burton (5) 71
10 32-321 RUSTY FELLOW 9P (F,G) (Mrs G Shail) R Shail 9-12-0 ....Mr D Mansell (7) 89
11 /PRPP5 SOLAR WARRIOR 22 (S Kitching) S Kitching 9-12-0 ....Mr N Kent (7) 35
12 1112/1 STRUGGLES GLORY 12P (F) (D Robinson) D Robinson 8-12-0 Mr D C Robinson (7) —
13 -F1215 TINOTOPS 28 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (R Targett) Mrs R Vickery 9-12-0 .Miss S Vickery (3) 114

BETTING: 7-2 Last Option, 4-1 Secret Bay, Struggles Glory, 6-1 Tinotops, 7-1 Stalbridge Bill, 10-1 Rusty Fellow, 12-1 Bendor Mark, 14-1 others

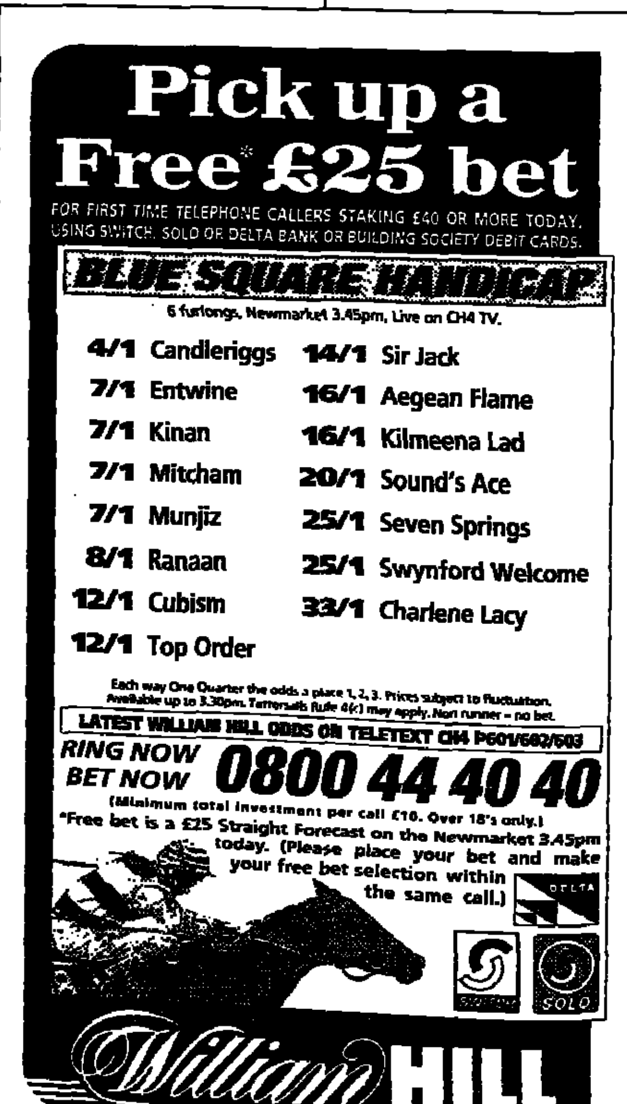
1998: STALBRIDGE BILL 8-12-0 Miss A Goschen (5-2 jt fav) J Dufosee 10 ran

Blinkered first time

CHELTENHAM: 2.20 Good Lord Murphy: 2.55 Cool Spring
RIPON: 2.45 Ambitious

SPECIALISTS

CHELTENHAM: Trainers: Miss V Williams, 10 winners from 36 runners, 27.8%: C Mann, 6 from 37, 16.2%, K Bailey, 10 from 69, 14.5%, J Old, 9 from 63, 14.3%, M Pipe, 45 from 328, 13.7%, D Nicholson, 29 from 222, 13.1%, N Henderson, 13 from 104, 12.5%, R Buckler, 3 from 25, 12.0%, Miss H Knight, 8 from 68, 11.8%. **Jockeys:** A P McCoy, 43 winners from 179 rides, 24.0%: N Williamson, 33 from 168, 19.6%, R Dunwoody, 26 from 178, 14.6%, M A Fitzgerald, 23 from 164, 14.0%; A Maguire, 17 from 127, 13.4%, R Thornton, 6 from 45, 13.3%; C Llewellyn, 16 from 139, 11.5%; T J Murphy, 7 from 62, 11.3%



GOLF

Thomas shows his potential

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

WHETHER at rugby or golf, Wales and her countrymen seem unstoppable at the moment. There were many fancied competitors as the McEvoy Trophy got under way yesterday and most of them were English. But the player who held the lead at the end of the first round was Ryan Thomas, a slim 17-year-old from Aberdare.

Thomas's round of 69, two under par, was an impressive score compiled in a biting wind on a day when the course was at different times pelted with hail and speckled with snow. Occasionally, and surprisingly, the sun shone.

The McEvoy Trophy, played over 72 holes, is the premier junior event in the early part of the season, well organised by officials at Copt Heath, where Peter McEvoy played his golf and is an honorary life member. The inaugural event was staged in August 1981, a sunny time judging by the photographs on the stairs leading to the first floor of the clubhouse.

These days the competition seems blighted by the weather. Never mind that it is mid-April, "if it is the McEvoy Trophy, then it must be snowing" is one of those sayings that may not have any basis in meteorological fact but seem to be borne out year after year.

Although the event has been curtailed only twice — in 1992 it was played over 63 holes and in 1998 over 54 holes — it has often been affected by the weather. In 1996 frost caused a delay to the start of the first round. Last year the first round was initially put back and then cancelled.

This year the first round was 45 minutes late starting because the greens were frost-ridden and throughout the day there was a race to complete the second round.

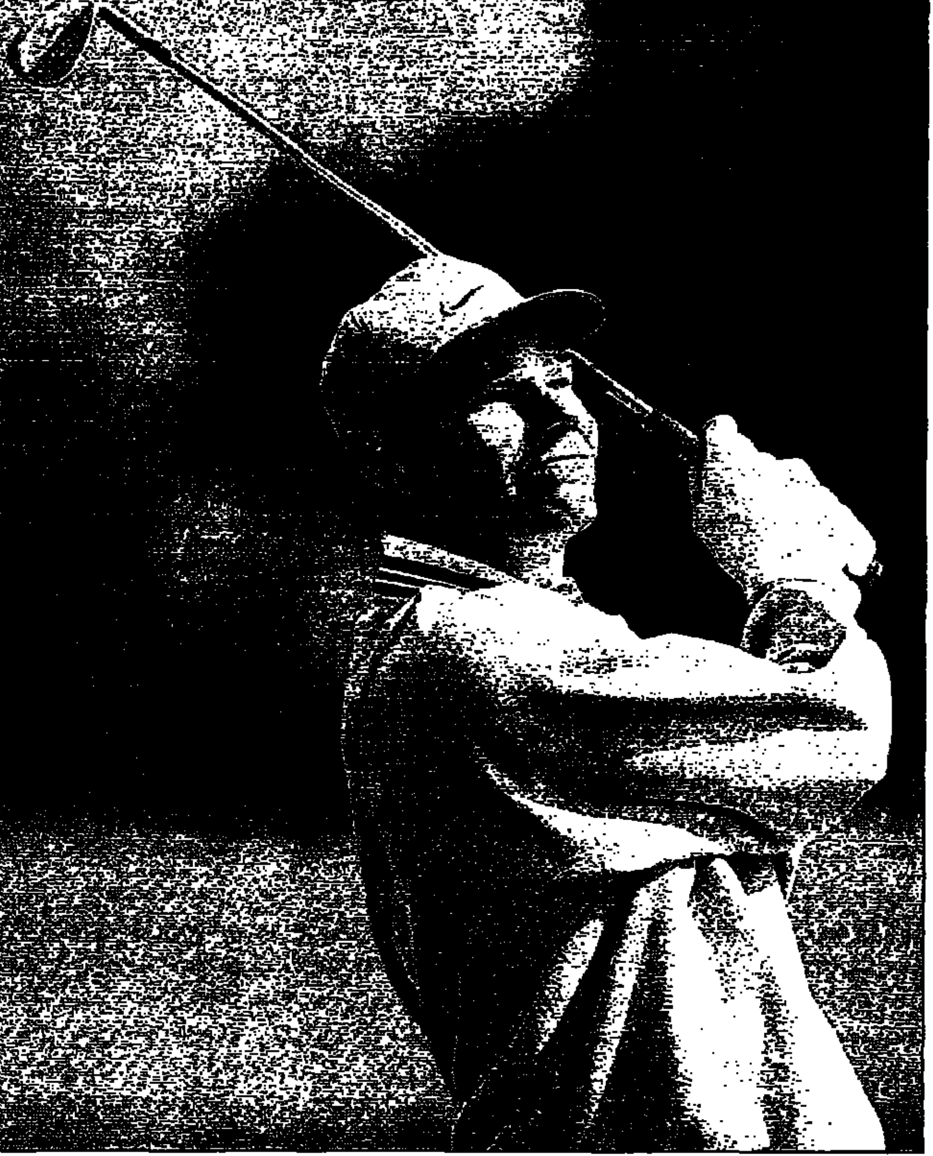
Thomas is a member of Cymru Elite, the group of golfers identified as deserving special treatment by the Welsh Golf Union, which has an enviable success rate at unearthing and then fast-tracking its stars through to the top of the amateur game. Thomas, whose father is a quantity surveyor, toyed with playing soccer competitively, playing at youth team standard for Cardiff City, before turning wholeheartedly to golf.

His opening drive, hit with power and a draw into a strong wind, impressed Ken Stanley, the estimable organiser of this event for the past ten years, but by the time Thomas reached the 4th tee he had dropped one stroke on the 2nd and two on the 3rd.

At that point he must have decided enough was enough, for he did not drop another stroke and, instead, had birdies on the 7th, 10th, 12th, 15th and 18th. He came home in 32, four under par, which set a few tongues wagging in admiration in the clubhouse. His round was 11 strokes better than the opening round by Lee Westwood, the winner in 1991. And look what happened to him.

Thomas was one stroke ahead of David Porter, from Stoneham in Hampshire, the same county as Justin Rose, the winner of this event last year. Porter was two strokes ahead of Stuart Fromant, an England boy international, Sandeep Grewal, from Heswall, who was an under-16 international but has yet to be capped at under-18 level, and Craig McConnell, from Harpenden Common.

Porter has the build of a rugby player and the maturity of a man. "He is 15 going on 30" was how one English golf official described him. Some maturity was needed when he used his putter four times on the 4th, once from off the green and three times on it, and thereafter he demonstrated it. He birdied the 8th, 11th and 18th.



CLARE LIM

David Jones, of Wearside, follows the flight of an approach during his first round of 75

James fires the first warning shots at Faldo

From Mel Webb in Sintra, Portugal

NOT for the first time, Mark James's sobriquet of "Jesse" suited him down to the ground yesterday as he went into cold-blooded, gunslinging mood and drew a bead on those who might be looking to him to base his wild-card selections for the Europe Ryder Cup team on class and not form.

It was a warning from the Europe Ryder Cup captain to players in general — and, since he mentioned him by name, to Nick Faldo in particular — that was so thinly-veiled that it was translucent and the coded message was: "Buck up, Nick — and if you don't, forget it."

"If a player like Nick Faldo is on form, then I would want him in my team," James said as he prepared for the Estoril Open, which starts at Penha Longa today. "All the players know exactly where they stand. They see all the talent coming through and know if they are not close they're not going to get in.

"If a player like Nick Faldo, an established player who has shown he is very good under pressure, hits form late on and were to be in the top 16 or perhaps 20 I might, possibly, think about going out on a limb and look that far down the list, but it's unlikely, to be honest. The temptation, if I have enough experience, is to stay inside the top 13 or 14.

"Any player who wants to get in is going to have to show some form. We have too much strength in depth these days to give wild cards to players on a wing and a prayer. If Nick is going to get in the side, he is going to have to play better than he is at the moment."

> 'We have too much depth to give wild cards'

It might be said that the man who leaves Faldo out of his team would have to be either brave or foolhardy, and James is no fool. Faldo has, after all, won more matches than anybody on either side in the history of the competition — 23 wins from 46 individual matches played in a record 11 Ryder Cup appearances.

On the other hand, the best British player of his generation is at present 99th in the world rankings, and has not won a regular tour event anywhere for more than two years. He had rounds of 80 and 73 in the Masters last week and missed the cut by five strokes.

It has been pretty undistinguished stuff, to be honest. And now he knows that if he keeps sticking his head above the parapet in such a timorous fashion, he is liable to get it shot off by dead-eye James.



LINKS

WEBSITE: www.europeantour.com
Reports and latest scores from Estoril Open

TENNIS

Sampras succumbs to back injury

PETE SAMPRAS was forced out of the Barcelona Open yesterday after aggravating a back injury, depriving the event of a three-way shootout for the world No 1 spot.

Sampras, who lost the top position last month but quickly recovered it, strained a muscle in his lower back while playing a doubles match partnered by Tim Henman, of Great Britain. He had been due to open his singles campaign against Vince Spadea yesterday.

"It was my own fault," Sampras, who expects to be out for ten days, said. "Last night when I played the doubles it was very cold and I hadn't warmed up properly."

In a setback to his preparations for the French Open, which starts on May 24, Sampras, who suffered a similar problem at the Paris indoor event last year, will also miss the tournament in Monte Carlo next week and will not play a match on clay until Rome in May. Sampras had been hoping to defend his No 1 ranking against Carlos Moyà, of Spain, and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia.

Kafelnikov later lost his second-round match to Franco Squillari, of Argentina, but Moyà was still in with a chance of claiming the No 1 spot. For Sampras, far more important than the ranking, was the chance for some high-level practice on clay. He said this week he was determined to mount his most serious challenge for the French Open, the one grand-slam title that eludes him.

Broncos summon Branson

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Christopher Irvine

SINCE the London Broncos reached the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, Richard Branson has been unusually coy about leading the team out at Wembley on May 1. That was before being tackled yesterday by Shaun Edwards.

With Branson, the most spontaneous act can have a deliberate public relations motive, but when Edwards grabbed the microphone during a satellite link to the Caribbean with the Broncos chairman, to instruct him that the players would only accept being led out by him, Branson's disembodied voice faltered.

The head of the Virgin empire is not used to taking orders from anyone, but was told by the London captain: "We'll be massive underdogs against Leeds and this isn't a time to be indecisive. Each of us has got to play to our maximum potential, so we need you to be decisive."

Branson, also unfamiliar with accusations of shilly-shallying, replied: "If you're willing to hold my hand on the way out, I'd be delighted to."

Another conundrum still to be resolved is whether Edwards will chaperone Branson in suit or kit. His broken thumb is in a cast and doctors have advised him against playing in a record eleventh cup final.

While anxious not to be seen to muscle in on the players' big day, the club considers Branson as vital to their cause. Branson described the Broncos reaching the final as an opportunity to propel the game forward.

"I find it far more entertaining than any other sport in Britain. By the Broncos getting to Wembley, there's a chance to widen the audience dramatically," Branson said.

While Branson then turned his attentions to whale watching off his Necker Island retreat, the Broncos decided not to pursue special dispensation to play Anthony Seibold at Wembley because of their injury difficulties. The prop forward was signed after January 25, but the Rugby League Council is to examine extending the cup deadline next year.

□ Doncaster Dragons, bottom of the Northern Ford Premiership with just one win this season, have failed to re-sign Vila Matautia from St Helens. The Dragons, who this week appointed Carl Sanderson as coach, wanted to take the Western Samoan forward on loan, but were told that the player still figures in the plans of Ellery Hanley, the St Helens coach.

Doncaster have made one signing with Joe Naidole, the former Huddersfield Giants forward, joining them from Hunslet Hawks.

RUGBY UNION

Board brings laws video into focus

DELEGATES to the International Rugby Board (IRB) council meetings are not accustomed to brain-storming video sessions but there will be lively debate in Buenos Aires this week after the board unveils its new laws video and a "user-friendly" version of the lawbook (David Hands writes).

In particular, because the southern hemisphere is already up in arms over the quality of Super 12 rugby that they are seeing this year.

After a climactic conclusion to the Five Nations Championship in the northern hemisphere, delegates from Britain to the fourth general meeting of the IRB, which begins today, will argue that management of the game is going well. But Leo Williams, chairman of Rugby World Cup Ltd, is already on record protesting that over-zealous referees have ruined the Super 12 and could have the same effect upon the World Cup this autumn.

There will, however, be no departure from the strict line adopted by referees this year, if only for reasons of self-interest.

Leading officials have fallen in with the requirements of the IRB charter, knowing that the board also organises the merit table of referees from which will be chosen the officials for the World Cup: since those requirements produced as good a Five Nations as this decade has seen, with three matches being decided by a single point, the north will have a glut of statistical evidence to support their argument.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Britons made to battle

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Great Britain remained on course for pool B gold in the world championship, after inexplicably trailing Poland, who are without a win, 3-0 after a dreadful opening 17 minutes. A tremendous fightback sealed a 4-3 victory and moved Peter Woods's side into joint leadership of the pool with Denmark, the host nation, and Germany, the favourites. The likely outcome is that these three nations will battle it out for the gold medal.

■ **HOCKEY:** Anna Bennett, who played her last international in a play-off for the bronze medal against The Netherlands in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, has proved her fitness after recovering from a serious knee injury and is set to return to the England forward line. The Slough striker is in both squads to take part in a four-nations tournament in Dublin next month and a tour to Australia at the end of May.

■ **SQUASH:** Sue Wright, England's highest-ranked women's player, has withdrawn from the WISPA world grand prix finals starting today in the Red Sea resort of Hurghada in Egypt. Cassandra Jackman, the British champion from Norfolk, and Suzanne Horner, of Yorkshire, are among the eight top players from the WISPA world tour contesting the event. Michelle Martin, the world No 1 from Australia, the top seed who is defending her title, is aiming for her 50th WISPA world tour title.

■ **REAL TENNIS:** Charlotte Cornwallis and Alex Garside, the seeded players in action on the opening day of the British Open women's championships, scored impressive victories and look capable of upsets later in the tournament, which may prove a useful form guide to the world championships next week. Cornwallis, 26, the youngest of the world's three female professionals, was too strong for Sara Metherell on the lively Holyport court and Garside, a former world doubles champion, kept an immaculate length against the less experienced Susie Falkner in recording a straight-sets victory.

■ **RIFLE SHOOTING:** Tom Rylands, of Great Britain, won the Free State Cup, the first event of the South African championships, in Bloemfontein yesterday, one of five members of the Britain team who were placed in the top ten.

RIPON

ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Hammer And Sickle 3.50 Romero
2.45 Angie Baby 4.25 Ilissus
3.20 Fiori 5.00 JOHAYRO (nap)

GOING: GOOD SIS

DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 EBF SHAROW MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,103: 5f) (11 runners)

1 CONNECT M Tompkins 9-0 G Faulkner (3) 1
2 COOL JUDGE W Haigh 9-0 A Culhane 4
3 HAMMER AND SICKLE M Johnston 9-0 D Holland 2
4 JAZZ TIME A Jarvis 9-0 L Newton 10
5 4 PTAH 19 J Eyre 9-0 C Lowther 9
6 ROCK ON ROBIN C Fairhurst 9-0 M Fenton 6
7 UNCLE EXACT J Berry 9-0 G Carter 5
8 YOU'RE SPECIAL P Haslam 9-0 M Tebbutt 3
9 2 COSMENA 10 R Whitaker 8-9 F Lynch 11
10 DOUBLE FAULT T Easterby 8-9 K Darley 7
11 JEMIMA T Easterby 8-9 L Charnock 8

[illegible] Uncle Exact, 4-1 Hammer And Sickle, 6-1 Ptah, Cosmena, 8-1 Connect, [illegible]uble Fault, 10-1 Jemima, 16-1 others.

2.45 RIPON RACECOURSE MARINA CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,623: 5f) (10)

1 005- MON BRUCE 229 (D,F) M Dods 5-9-8 F Lynch 2
2 500- VENTURE CAPITALIST 199 (F,G) D Nicholls 10-9-7 Alex Greaves 5
3 -050 FRENCH GRIT 73 (C,D,F) D Barker 7-9-2 D Holland 10
4 3346 DANDE TIMES 5 (B,D) K Ivory 4-9-1 C Catlin (7) 1
5 000- RICH GLOW 202 (D,F,G,S) N Bycroft 8-9-0 G Duffield 8
6 000/ THAT OLD FEELING 613 (F) G Kelly 7-9-0 S Finnamore (7) 3
7 3200 AA-YOUKNOWNOTHING 30 (T,D,S) Miss J Craze 3-8-11 T Williams 9
8 2155 AMBITIOUS 14 (B) J Fanshawe 4-8-11 W Ryan 7
9 161- ANGIE BABY 232 (D,F,S) J Berry 3-8-8 Iona Wands (5) 6
10 00-0 SHALARI 36 J Eyre 3-8-3 R Lappin 4

[illegible] Venture Capitalist, 6-4 Angie Baby, 10-1 Mon Bruce, 12-1 Aa-[illegible]knownothing, 20-1 French Grit, Dande Times, Ambitious, 25-1 others.

3.20 COCKED HAT 'COCK O'THE NORTH' HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £6,595: 1m) (13)

1 333- GLANWYDDEN 170 (S) J Berry 9-7 P Bradley (7) 10
2 233- FIORI 143 (BF) P Haslam 9-7 M Tebbutt 7
3 011- SPITZBERGEN 161 (D,S) M Johnston 9-6 D Holland 12
4 514- INDIAN PLUME 209 (BF,F) C Thornton 9-6 W Ryan 8
5 204- RINGSIDE JACK 206 (S) C Fairhurst 9-3 C Lowther 11
6 005- AZZAN 160 J Dunlop 9-0 G Carter 9
7 054- JUSTUPYOURSTREET 189 J J O'Neill 8-12 G Duffield 13
8 301- DISPOL ROCK 197 (G) P Calver 8-10 K Darley 4
9 6-13 PRAIRIE WOLF 19 (BF,D) M Bell 8-10 M Fenton 6
10 00-2 COL-WOODY 14 A Jarvis 8-8 L Newton 5
11 -212 AIR OF ESTEEM 55 (D) F Haslam 8-8 P Goode (5) 2
12 014- BOOGY WOOGY 159 (B,S) T Easterby 8-7 R Winston (3) 3
13 2450 LOVE DIAMONDS 10 (D) M Johnston 8-3 J Fanning 1

[illegible]pitzbergen, 9-2 Azzan, 6-1 Indian Plume, Prairie Wolf, 7-1 Air Of Esteem, 10-1 Fiori, Boogy Woogy, 12-1 others.

3.50 FARM FED CHICKEN HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £4,124: 1m 4f 60yd) (8)

1 01- KATTEGAT 183 (S) W Jarvis 9-7 M Tebbutt 6
2 355- FANTASY HILL 229 J Dunlop 9-6 G Carter 1
3 56-1 BEAUCHAMP NOBLE 20 G A Butler 9-5 J F Egan 8
4 10-0 STOLEN TEAR 12 (S) M Johnston 9-2 D Holland 4
5 13-0 SUDDEN SQUALL 21 (G) J Gosden 8-13 G Hind 3
6 00-1 HIGH TATRA 14 (D,G) S Woods 8-4 G Duffield 2
7 60-2 SECRET DELL 15 (BF) E Dunlop 8-4 W Ryan 5
8 0-22 ROMERO 15 (BF) C Thornton 8-3 J Fanning 7

[illegible]igh Tatra, 4-1 Sudden Squall, 9-2 Secret Dell, 5-1 Romero, 6-1 Beauchamp Noble, 8-1 Fantasy Hill, 10-1 Kattegat, 12-1 Stolen Tear.

4.25 SKELTON MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £3,745: 1m) (18)

1 0 ALPINE RED 14 M Bell 9-0 M Fenton 2
2 0- COMPTON AJAX 200 G A Butler 9-0 J F Egan 3
3 40- CUT THE SPICE 248 T Easterby 9-0 L Charnock 15
4 0- DON QUIXOTE 174 (BF) L Cumani 9-0 R Ffrench 8
5 00- DROWNED IN BUBBLY 335 J Eyre 9-0 C Lowther 17
6 0- FERRET EDDIE 328 T Tate 9-0 T Lucas 10
7 GENTLEMAN VENTURE S Woods 9-0 G Duffield 11
8 3 ILISSUS 12 (BF) M Tregoning 9-0 T Sprake 18
9 0-4 JET AGE 14 E Dunlop 9-0 W Ryan 7
10 KOCAL D Barker 9-0 T Williams 16
11 0-0 MILDON 8 E Weymes 9-0 G Hind 9
12 0 MY PLEASURE 14 E Dunlop 9-0 G Carter 12
13 0- SOUTHERN DUNES 340 Enrico Incisa 9-0 Kim Tinkler 5
14 32- TONIC 167 (BF) M Johnston 9-0 D Holland 14
15 00- LADY ANNABEL 277 C Fairhurst 8-9 I Grantham (7) 6
16 MRS JODI J Jefferson 8-9 D Pears 13
17 352- RAHAYEB 219 J Dunlop 8-9 K Darley 1
18 SABANG Miss J A Camacho 8-9 G Parkin 4

11-4 Rahayeb, 3-1 Ilissus, 6-1 Don Quixote, 13-2 Tonic, 8-1 Jet Age, 14-1 Compton Ajax, My Pleasure, 16-1 others.

5.00 NEWBY APPRENTICE HANDICAP

(£2,533: 5f) (17)

1 04-0 ZUHAIR 10 (F) D Nicholls 6-10-0 L Gueller (7) 17
2 5-00 JUWWI 10 (D,F) J Bradley 5-9-12 Claire Bryan (8) 8
3 000- CRYHAVOC 180 (F) D Nicholls 5-9-9 P Clarke (3) 15
4 4605 SQUIRE CORRIE 14 (B,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-4 W Hutchinson (3) 5
5 00-5 JOHAYRO 14 (CD,F,G,S) J Goldie 6-9-0 R Fowley (8) 10
6 000- JUST BOB 181 (D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 10-9-0 I Grantham (5) 9
7 6020 IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 72 (B,D,F,G) K Ivory 6-8-13 C Catlin (10) 4
8 00-0 WAIT'N'SEE 15 (T,D,F) M W Easterby 4-8-11 S Finnamore (5) 14
9 60-0 SWAN AT WHALLEY 14 (D,G,S) K Ryan 7-8-7 D Glennon (8) 2
10 000- PENNILESS 230 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 4-8-6 P Hanagan (7) 16
11 00-0 SANS RIVALE 14 (D,G,S) J Eyre 4-8-3 D Young (8) 11
12 000- DISTANT KING 176 (D,F,G) G Kelly 6-8-3 P Cleary (5) 1
13 -440 SOUND THE TRUMPET 61 (T,D,G) R Spicer 7-7-11 J Bosley (5) 3
14 00/5 WHIZZ KID 28 (D,F) J Bradley 5-7-10 D Williams 13
15 000- SECONDS AWAY 198 (F) J Goldie 8-7-10 P M Quinn 6
16 4320 KALAR 30 (B,D,F,G) D Chapman 10-7-10 D Egan (7) 12
17 550- TICKA TICKA TIMING 373 (T) L Lloyd-James 6-7-10 R Thomas (5) 7

11-2 Squire Corrie, 6-1 Swan At Whalley, 8-1 Zuhair, Johayro, Ivory's Grab Hire, Sans Rivale, 10-1 Distant King, Kalar, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Woods, 6 winners from 20 runners, 30.0%; J Fanshawe, 6 from 21, 28.6%; L Cumani, 12 from 44, 27.3%; J Dunlop, 10 from 38, 26.3%; A Jarvis, 3 from 16, 18.8%; J Gosden, 8 from 48, 16.7%; E Weymes, 6 from 36, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: W Ryan, 11 winners from 44 rides, 25.0%; K Darley, 34 from 146, 23.3%; G Hind, 11 from 51, 21.6%; R Ffrench, 5 from 24, 20.8%; G Carter, 11 from 57, 19.3%; D Holland, 9 from 50, 18.0%; L Newton, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

Murphy suspended

TIMMY MURPHY was yesterday banned for ten days at an inquiry of the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee for his use of the whip on Juyush, pulled up behind Istabraq in the Martell Aintree Hurdle last Saturday. Murphy was found to have used his whip with excessive frequency and was suspended from April 17 to April 28.

□ Frankie Dettori and Tony McCoy are to meet in a challenge match sponsored by the Tote at Sandown Park on Saturday week. They will race at level weights over a mile on horses trained by Phillip Mitchell.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newmarket

Going: good

1.35 (1m) 1, **SWAN KNIGHT** (L Dettori, 13-8 fav); 2, **Mannda**r (J Fortune, 5-1); 3, **High Heyland** (R Hughes, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 6-1 Whispering Wind, 12 Captain Bligh (4th), Quiet Dignity (6th), 16 Kuwait Bird, Who Cares Wins, 25 Fortune Cookie, 33 Kez, Mishor, Parkside (5th). 12 ran. Sh hd, ¾l, 3½l, ¾l, nk. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.00, £6.00. DF: £4.20. CSF: £7.05.

2.05 (7f) 1, **SHOWBOAT** (N Pollard, 9-1); 2, **Temeraire** (A Clark, 20-1); 3, **Stanoll** (L Dettori, 13-2 fav); 4, **Tertium** (M Fenton, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 8-1 Al Muallim (5th), 8 Harmonic Way, 10 Daylight In Dubai, Return of Amin, 11 Sally Jack, 12 Epsom Cyclone, 14 Free Option, Kumait, 16 Daunting Lady (6th), Emerging Market, 20 Omaha City, Tumbleweed Ridge, 25 No Extras, 33 Astrac, Dushanbe. 19 ran. NR: Granny's Pet. Sh hd, 2l, nk, ½l, 2½l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £8.80; £1.90, £4.10, £2.30, £5.20. DF: £61.90. CSF: £172.39. Tricast: £1,157.53.

2.35 (1m 110yd) 1, **SHIVA** (K Fallon, 7-1); 2, **Haami** (R Hills, 100-30 fav); 3, **Green Card** (Pat Eddery, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 White Heart, 9-2 Handsome Ridge (6th), 10 Duck Row, 11 Alboostan, Lear Spear (5th), 40 Dower House (4th), 50 Diamond White. 10 ran. 1¼l, 1l, ½l, sh hd, ¾l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £7.70; £1.90, £1.70, £4.10. DF: £10.50. CSF: £24.98.

3.10 (7f) 1, **BERTOLINI** (L Dettori, 5-1); 2, **Indiana Legend** (Pat Eddery, 4-1); 3, **Kalidasa** (J Fortune, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Vision of Night (5th), 8 Undeterred (4th), 10 Caballero (6th). 6 ran. 2½l, 1¼l, 1¼l, 1½l, 2l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £4.00; £2.10, £2.50. DF: £11.00. CSF: £20.89.

3.45 (1m 4f) 1, **MINIVET** (T Quinn, 15-2); 2, **Rainbow Ways** (M Hills, 9-2); 3, **Hajr** (Pat Eddery, 4-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Alberich, 9 Lancer (5th), 12 Wave of Optimism, 14 Just In Time (4th), 16 First Master, St Lawrence, 20 Blurred, Glory of Grosvenor, 33 Beaumont (6th), 40 General Assembly. 13 ran. 3l, 1¼l, sh hd, nk, 4l. M Bell at Newmarket. Tote: £6.40; £1.50, £2.40, £1.90. DF: £16.20. CSF: £35.63. Tricast: £143.45.

4.15 (7f) 1, **CASSANDRA GO** (M Roberts, 7-1); 2, **Musical Treat** (J Fortune, 2-1 fav); 3, **Insinuate** (K Fallon, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Rimba, 10 Sulalat (4th), 12 Gold Angel, 16 Moss Rose, 20 Desdemona, En Silence, Spoonful of Sugar, 25 Chambre Separee, 33 Fantastic Belle (5th), Pearl Barley (6th), 40 Miss University. 14 ran. Nk, 2l, ¾l, 1½l, sh hd. G Wragg at Newmarket. Tote: £11.60; £2.60, £1.30, £1.80. DF: £19.10. CSF: £19.85.

4.45 (5f) 1, **HOH DEAR** (R Mullen, 11-1); 2, **Pussie Willow** (J Fortune, 13-8 fav); 3, **Indeedyedo** (K Fallon, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Seazun (6th), 11-2 Lady Sarka (4th), 10 Nesaah, 25 Janiceland (5th), 33 Erin Anam Cara, Never Diss Miss. 9 ran. ¾l, 1½l, 1¼l, 1½l, 2l. M Bell at Newmarket. Tote: £12.90; £2.90, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £16.20. CSF: £27.79.

5.20 (1m) 1, **SWEET EMOTION** (G Carter, 9-1); 2, **Cloudy Sky** (R Hills, 11-1); 3, **Snowy Range** (W Ryan, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Octane (6th), 4 Eastern Champ, 13 Keralba, 14 Harlequin Dancer (4th), 16 Sparkler (5th), 20 Woodcote Warrior, 25 Oro Street, 33 Roman Candle, 50 Kennga Prince. 12 ran. 1¼l, 2½l, ¾l, 1½l, 1¼l. E Dunlop at Newmarket. Tote: £15.00; £4.20, £3.60, £3.70. DF: £38.90. CSF: £89.08.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £47,078.42 carried forward to Newmarket today).

Placepot: £44.50 **Quadpot: £9.40**

Beverley

Going: good to firm

2.15 (1m 100yd) 1, **Genuine John** (R Winston, 11-2); 2, Wadi (9-4 fav); 3, Batsman (10-1). 17 ran. ¾l, 1¾l. J Parkes. Tote: £9.40; £2.50, £1.20, £7.60. DF: £11.20. CSF: £17.96.

2.45 (7f 100yd) 1, **Zulal** (K Darley, 2-1 fav); 2, Little Amin (8-1); 3, Open Arms (20-1); 4, Butterscotch (20-1). 16 ran. Hd, 2l. E Dunlop. Tote: £2.90; £1.10, £2.40, £6.70, £8.40. DF: £13.00. CSF: £20.57. Tricast: £250.10.

3.20 (7f 100yd) 1, **River Times** (K Darley, 10-1); 2, Latalomne (7-1); 3, Grangeville (3-1 fav). 8 ran. 1l, nk. T Easterby. Tote: £15.20; £2.50, £2.10, £1.40. DF: £54.50. CSF: £75.35.

3.55 (5f) 1, **Tara's Girl** (D Mernagh, 5-2 fav); 2, Kind Emperor (8-1); 3, Gain Time (8-1). 13 ran. 2½l, ¾l. J Quinn. Tote: £3.20; £1.90, £4.00, £3.40. DF: £15.30. CSF: £27.88.

4.25 (5f) 1, **Sweet Haven** (T Williams, 10-1); 2, Cowboys And Angels (3-1 jt-fav); 3, Desert Safari (7-1). Xenos 3-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. NR: Happy Times. 1¼l, ½l. M Heaton-Ellis. Tote: £22.40; £4.70, £1.90, £2.00. DF: £48.30. CSF: £41.53.

Happy Times (12/1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in the pound.

4.55 (1m 3f 216yd) 1, **Hi-Jenny** (T Williams, 12-1); 2, Dispol Trump (12-1); 3, Compton Amica (9-4 fav). 12 ran. ½l, 1l. W Storey. Tote: £17.50; £2.90, £3.80, £2.00. DF: £136.00. CSF: £131.51. Tricast: £409.57.

5.25 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, **Top Jem** (P McCabe, 5-2 fav); 2, Night Flyer (8-1); 3, Opulent (6-1). 10 ran. 2½l, hd. M Ryan. Tote: £2.30; £1.50, £6.10, £2.20. DF: £27.60. CSF: £23.20. Tricast: £105.81.

Placepot: £75.40 **Quadpot: £30.10**

Cheltenham

Going: good

2.20 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Act In Time** (R Wakley, 11-2 fav); 2, Specialize (8-1); 3, Zaitoon (9-1); 4, Reaganesque (20-1). 16 ran. NR: Cardiac Arrest. ½l, 4l. T George. Tote: £6.70; £1.60, £1.80, £1.60, £9.60. DF: £32.90. CSF: £42.14. Tricast: £359.07.

2.55 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, **Gigi Beach** (J Tizzard, 4-1 fav); 2, **Moorland Highflyer** (13-2); 3, The Gopher (12-1). 10 ran. ½l, 15l. P Nicholls. Tote: £3.40; £1.30, £2.40, £3.10. DF: £18.90. CSF: £27.19. Tricast: £258.23.

3.30 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Connor Macleod** (R Dunwoody, 6-1); 2, Storm Castle (16-1); 3, Wilmott's Fancy (11-8 fav). 9 ran. 7l, 3l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £5.90; £1.80, £3.30, £1.10. DF: £42.20. CSF: £83.71.

4.05 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **You're Agoodun** (A P McCoy, 5-1 fav); 2, Greycoat Boy (16-1); 3, Holborn Hill (16-1); 4, L'Idefix (9-1). 16 ran. 5l, ½l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.60; £1.70, £4.30, £5.50, £1.80. DF: £106.10. CSF: £68.81. Tricast: £1,095.86.

4.35 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **L'Opera** (R Johnson, 11-2); 2, Daraydan (7-2 fav); 3, Call My Guest (7-1). 8 ran. 1½l, 1¼l. D Nicholson. Tote: £4.20; £1.80, £1.50, £2.30. DF: £5.10. CSF: £21.18. Tricast: £111.55.

5.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Allgrit** (T J Murphy, 2-1); 2, New Bird (6-1); 3, Masamadas (6-4 fav). 8 ran. 5l, 3l. J Old. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £1.70, £1.20. DF: £11.70. CSF: £12.46.

Placepot: £25.60 **Quadpot: £6.10**

CRICKET

Surrey put sting in their tail

By Geoffrey Dean

THE OVAL (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 287 runs behind Surrey

WITH or without their England players, Surrey are going to take a lot of bowling out this season. Gloucestershire found that out to their cost yesterday when Martin Bicknell, far too capable for No 11, played a series of shots that were as good as any that the top order managed. Out of a last-wicket stand of 59 in just over an hour, Bicknell cracked an unbeaten 49.

Up until then, it had been entirely Gloucestershire's day. After breaking the opening stand in the first over of the morning, they had taken nine wickets for 152 on a good pitch. The key to their success, apart from some indifferent batting, had been the willingness of the ball to swing.

On the first day, the coldest that Mark Alleyne said he had ever had the misfortune to field on, there was minimal swing. With a slight rise in the temperature yesterday, however, the same ball swung immediately. Given that it was still cold enough for visiting bowlers to seize up, they performed creditably, notably Harvey in an admirable pre-lunch spell of three for 20 from 11 overs.

Harvey, just under 6ft and powerfully built, should continue to pick up plenty of wickets before word of his skills gets round the circuit. Being medium-fast, he is not going to unnerve too many batsmen, but he showed that he can swing the ball both ways and also bowl outswingers from wide of the crease. Ratcliffe was bowled by an inswinger to which he offered no shot.

Like most Australian support bowlers, Harvey has learned to conceal his slower ball with considerable skill. He employed it regularly, and it brought him two more wickets. First, Shahid, trying to check his shot, chipped a catch that was athletically taken at square leg by Windows: then, Ward, seemingly set for a maiden century, was completely deceived. He had batted impressively for his 78, clearly better for his winter in Perth under the tutelage of Peter Carlstein, the motivator that Mal Loye credited for much of his success with Northamptonshire last season.

Alistair Brown needs no one to tell him what he can do, and with a typically-violent hook off Smith, he sent the first six of the season into the pristine new white seats on the popular terracing. Spectators will be glad to know that 10,000 were installed over the winter, replacing the grubby, multi-coloured jobs that necessitated many a dry cleaning bill.

From the uncertainty of 179 for five, Surrey were led towards respectability by Hollioake and Batty, who added 69. That it took them 32 overs underlines how responsibly they played. The coaching staff at the Oval are trying to get Hollioake to play straighter to correct a certain bottom-handedness evident from his winter in Australia. He responded by playing mainly within the 'V', except when effortlessly pulling a brace of sixes. But he is an inveterate sweeper, and eventually succumbed to the shot when Ball deceived him for length.

Batty's long and plucky innings, which featured some splendid driving, was eventually ended in identical fashion to that of Brown — by a late inswinger from Smith. Gary Butcher, who became the third member of his family to play for Surrey within eight months, had already fallen quickly, to the disappointment of his watching father.

Bicknell, however, then made decisive contributions, first by playing shots all round the wicket, and then by swinging the ball lavishly. Barnett, on his Gloucestershire debut, soon nicked a good one, and Hewson was bowled after failing to pick Salisbury's googly.

GRAHAM CHADWICK / ALLSPORT



Hancock takes evasive action as Gary Butcher, the Surrey batsman, drives through the covers at the Oval yesterday

Toiling Langer lingers longer

By Ivo Tennant

LORD'S (second day of four): Kent, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 233 runs behind Middlesex

RATHER than return home upon England's arrival at the airport from Sharjah, Angus Fraser nobly chose to journey to Lord's to watch his county colleagues. He had a bath and experienced cricket that was of a kind he will have participated in many a time at the start of a season. Middlesex, put in on Tuesday, made indeterminate progress in compiling 254.

There were, perhaps, only 300 spectators present at any one time, including a sizeable party of schoolchildren and a smattering of women on the middle tier of the pavilion. Brave people. It was about as cold as can be at a cricket ground and the proceedings were pretty sluggish throughout the day.

Langer's half-century was a struggle. Then again, how could it have been anything but given that the conditions were so different from his last match, when the sun was on his back in Antigua and he was making 51 and 127 for Australia in that wonderful series against West Indies? Now, there was some movement for the medium pacers on a pitch slow and soft after the rain and snow.

Langer: half-century

When he was caught jabbing outside off stump at Thompson, who was preferred to Phillips, Langer had made 55 off 138 balls. It was not quite the highest score of the day, but it was the most significant innings, for Ramprakash had gone early, edging to first slip off Fleming and Kettleborough went in the next over, Ward holding a fine, low catch at second slip.

Whatever else it may feature, Fleming's captaincy will not lack for colour or a belief in himself. In the absence of Ealham, he brought himself on first change and, in addition to removing Ramprakash, bowled Shah with one he held back. He has not set Kent any specific targets — or at least none he is prepared to divulge — but there was always a sense of purpose apparent in the field yesterday.

Thompson, who was given few opportunities last season, finished with four wickets and Patel picked up three towards the end of the innings, even though there was nothing for him in the pitch. Headley was expensive and did not take a wicket, but these are early days.

Nash ensured that Middlesex had a total of sorts by the time they were all out after tea. What with Phil Edmonds taking on the chairmanship of the club and Don Bennett returning in a part-time capacity to the dressing-room that he oversaw with such distinction for so long, they will have some beady eyes on them.

Kent, in reply, lost Smith, the Cambridge Blue. He was leg-before to an Oxford-born medium pacer who was making his first-class debut. As Cook had been out first ball earlier in the day, caught at short leg off Patel, this wicket was riches indeed.

MCC teams very happy to fly the flag

While the England party was enduring a flight with Emirates, one of its World Cup backers, that took it everywhere but in a straight line to Sharjah, MCC was concocting an airline deal of its own. All the club's tours abroad in future will be sponsored — by British Airways.

MCC shirts will now have BA branding on them, the players will travel in first-class and business sections and the deal, worth in excess of £500,000 over three years, will extend to the club bringing European sides to England. BA executives will have their own hospitality facilities at Lord's, including during the World Cup and, what is more, BA held the first all-women's dinner in the Long Room last week.

The importance of the sponsorship for MCC is that it is increasing considerably the number of touring parties that it sends abroad each year. Other than the new NatWest media centre, this is the biggest deal for the club in its drive to market itself. This year, MCC sides will visit Kenya, New Zealand, France, Sweden, the United States, The Netherlands and Malta.



FATHER TIMES

All pay

Sponsorship may be in short supply for the World Cup, but demand for tickets is booming. So much so that there is to be a bar on "freebies" — complimentary passes for former Test players and administrators. "If old cricketers come on to me, I shall refer them to the ticket office," Michael Browning, the event manager, said.

"The world has changed so much since the first World Cup in 1975, when everybody and their dogs could have got in. If people, however distinguished, think they are entitled to free tickets now, I have to be hard and callous. The tournament is up there now with the Commonwealth Games and demand is phenomenal," he said.

Middlesex players are among those expecting free tickets but, according to Browning, they will be unable to use the net facilities at the Nursery End during a World Cup match at Lord's, let alone be given free seats. The England and Wales Cricket Board will be undertaking limited hospitality and only prominent politicians and ambassadors can be sure of complimentaries.

No regrets

Does a retired cricketer yearn for the game at the start of the season when the blackthorn is out, April snow showers are everywhere and the linseed oil has dried up? This is a list of what Graham Cowdrey, who retired from Kent last year, will not miss:

"The motorways, the dreaded trouser press, the gateman — 'You've still got to have a ticket, mate' — fat tests, star jumps, squats, beep tests, explaining once again to the Kent physio that I was born with a heavy bone structure, wet days in Swansea, journalists still writing 'son of Colin', Sunday crowds at Trent Bridge, dropped from the team again, sore knees and bloody elbows, looking for a job in October, signing an autograph for a kid only to hear him say: 'I've got the fat one — who is he?'"

Viva Sir Viv

Sir Vivian Richards will pick up a bat for the first time since he retired when he plays in a star-studded Bunbury match on May 23 to raise funds for his old West Indies colleague, Winston Davis, who is now a tetraplegic.

Dennis Lillee and Michael Holding are also playing and the England World Cup squad will be at the game at Finedon, Northamptonshire. Admission will be £3 and the hope is that £20,000 will be raised.

Sir Vivian: turning out for Davis's benefit

Ladies' bar

It had to happen as soon as ladies were allowed into the pavilion at Lord's. One female who sought to escape the bitter cold and — in all innocence — seek refuge in the Bowlers' Bar yesterday was politely reminded by an MCC official that it was for gentlemen only. Sir Tim Rice's working party, which is examining improvements in facilities for women, is contemplating providing better signposting.

IVO TENNANT

Eager Brown makes up for wasted time

By Michael Austin

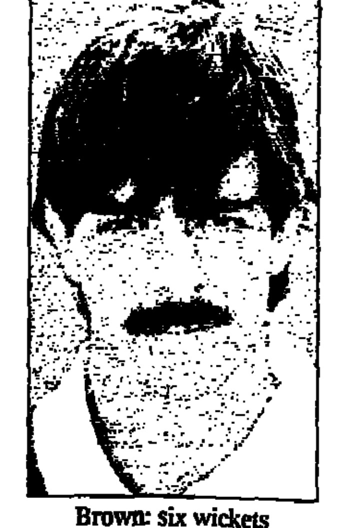
CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four; Durham won toss): Durham, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 120 runs behind Worcestershire

MORE snow trimmed 11 overs from play after tea yesterday but Simon Brown, the fast left-armer, had already made a chilling impression on Worcestershire with, remarkably, his fourth five-wicket return in three first-class matches spanning 17 months.

Brown took six for 25 on his first appearance in the championship since the match against Leicestershire in September, 1997, when he had match figures of ten for 141. In the interim, he played at Cambridge last May, capturing six for 17, before undergoing a knee operation.

Without Moody and Hick, Worcestershire could be short of runs in the first part of the season, but yesterday Leatherdale responded to a predictable crisis on a challenging pitch with an innings of 85, in which he hit 14 fours from the 139 balls he faced in a stay of three hours.

Leatherdale completed 1,000 first-class runs last summer for the first time in an 11-year career and his presence will be invaluable, along with that of Pollard, who should add much needed experience at the top of the order, lacking since the retirement of Curtis.



Brown: six wickets

After taking strike at seven for two, Leatherdale punished anything pitched short before he was eighth out at 141. Only Illingworth had offered him serious support, their stand for the seventh wicket being worth 54 in 12 overs.

Brown, 29, who was a member of the staff when Durham gained first-class status seven years ago, has now taken 389 wickets for the county. Wood, his closest challenger, has 191. Yesterday they enjoyed contrasting fortunes, Brown bagging four for six in 25 balls after tea and Wood, though armed with a new contract, failing to take a wicket.

Durham held their catches, despite the chilling wind, from the moment that Weston drove Betts to cover after the start had been delayed until 1.25pm, while Tuesday's snow melted away. Another oddity for the scrapbook.

When the greensward reappeared, Durham seized command, though the familiar cynic seated near the press box warned guardedly that everything would be put into perspective when the home team batted. They soon lost Gough, leg-before a long way forward to Sheriyar but this could not spoil Durham's day.

Betts, like Brown born in the North East, made the initial incision for them, sending back Solanki leg-before to add to his dismissal of Weston.

Pollard spent a vigilant 15 overs at the crease before the middle-order, with the exception of Illingworth, crumbled away. Rhodes skied a catch to the wicketkeeper when attempting an ill-advised hook and Wilson was taken at backward short-leg. Ultimately, Worcestershire were grateful to scramble beyond 150.

Apart from Leatherdale, batting was something of a trial, as Durham swiftly discovered after snow showers gave way to blissful blue skies in the evening session.

Malcolm has early success

EDGBASTON (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire have scored 126 for three wickets against Northamptonshire

THE pavilion clock had still not been adjusted to British Summer Time, which seemed entirely appropriate in view of the weather, but Neil Smith and Matthew Hayden, the new captains of Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, could not wait to start, agreeing to play in conditions which the umpires considered unfit.

Hayden, more accustomed to the heat of Queensland, must have questioned his own sanity when Smith won the toss and opted for the warmth of the dressing-room, condemning him to more than three shivering hours at first slip. At least the efforts of Malcolm and Taylor, on a seaming pitch, warmed him up.

A slow thaw after a sharp overnight frost had left the run-up at the Pavilion End so wet that play did not start until 3.15 but that did not trouble Malcolm, who pinned Wagh leg-before with his first ball, or Taylor, who had Powell caught at short leg.

Warwickshire were in trouble when Malcolm had Penney caught behind and Piper retired with a bruised finger. But Hemp steadied the ship with an unbeaten 61 in a valuable partnership with Brown.

Lehmann leads the charge

DARREN LEHMANN hit an unbeaten 110 off 92 balls and joined Michael Bevan in a record partnership that led Australia to 288 for four in the second one-day international against West Indies in Grenada yesterday.

Bevan contributed 72 not out off 74 balls with six fours as the pair added an unbroken 172 for the fifth wicket off 147 balls.

The innings was Australia's highest total in 86 internationals against West Indies, beating the 286 for nine in Georgetown, Guyana, four years ago.

Lehmann hit his second and highest one-day international century which included ten boundaries and one six over mid-wicket. . Bevan took 53 balls over his fifty.

Lehmann and Bevan dominated the second half of the innings after the touring team slipped to 116 for four in the 26th over.

AUSTRALIA

†A C Gilchrist c Chanderpaul b Hooper	17
M E Waugh c and b Hooper	41
D R Martyn b King	28
D S Lehmann not out	110
*S R Waugh c Lara b King	0
M G Bevan not out	72
Extras (lb 6, w 8, nb 6)	20
Total (4 wkts, 50 overs)	288

S Lee, B P Julian, P R Reiffel, S K Warne and D W Fleming did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-30, 2-85, 3-106, 4-116

BOWLING: Ambrose 10-0-47-0; King 10-0-53-2; Hooper 10-0-66-2; Arthurton 8-0-43-0; Bryan 7-0-41-0; Simmons 5-0-32-0

WEST INDIES: S L Campbell, S Chanderpaul, *B C Lara, C L Hooper, †J C Adams, S C Williams, K L T Arthurton, P V Simmons, H R Bryan, C E L Ambrose, R D King.

Umpires: S A Bucknor and W Doctrove

CRICKET

Prichard puts on bold front

By Thrasy Petropoulos

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Leicestershire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 130 runs behind Essex

A NEW season and with it a chance for new beginnings. After finishing bottom of the heap in the county championship last season, there is only one direction in which the fortunes of Essex can go. This was their first opportunity to show a vocal membership unused to failure that the conclusion to last season, which involved a run of six defeats, was merely a blip. That it came against Leicestershire, the champions, who claimed six victories over the same period, will only have whetted the appetite of the faithful.

For the most part, it was the new, bold Essex that led the way, repelling a Leicestershire seam attack in the morning with confidence and vigour. At the helm was Paul Prichard, the former captain, who stepped down after enduring injury and the most wretched form last season, when he averaged only 13 in 18 innings.

From a position of some strength at 181 for three, though, the old, inhibited Essex re-emerged. Leicestershire have the winning habit and they need far less encouragement to run through a side than that of tentative batsmen pushing out with uncertainty. Before they knew where they were, Essex found themselves 204 for eight and in some disarray.

It called for Essex to dig deep. Perhaps these are early days to be scratching around for bonus points, but the sight of Peter Such, once ridiculed for his batting limitations, swiping Matthew Brimson over mid-wicket for six and driving Brimson's replacement at the Hayes Close end, Jon Dakin, lavishly through the covers to secure a second batting point spoke of renewed hope and confidence.

In all, the last two wickets yielded 48 runs, priceless in what so far has been a low-scoring contest. Encouragingly, that conviction was then carried over into the Leicestershire innings. Iain Sutcliffe and Aftab Habib were both caught behind groping and Ben Smith was bowled comprehensively by Ashley Cowan. By the close they had reached 122 for four.

Darren Maddy, whose season last year was almost Prichardesque for its failings — 512 runs, of which 243 came in two centuries, at an average of 24 in 18 innings — at least was reassuringly positive. Showing the form of a successful winter A tour, he reached 46 before being bowled by Mark Ilott.

Prichard, though, can claim to have taken most from the day. Unbeaten on 43 overnight, he moved to his first championship half-century since the end of the 1997 season and was growing visibly in confidence before, inexplicably, stagnating when reaching the eighties.

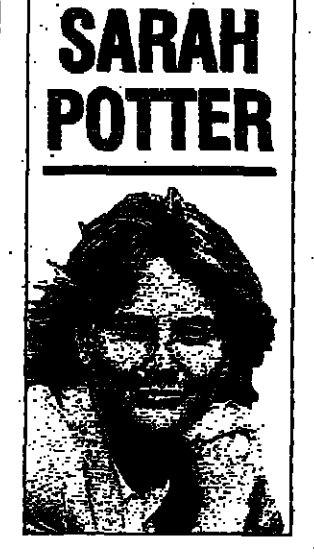
Dropped on 82, a difficult chance spilt by James Whitaker high to his left at second slip off Dakin, he was dismissed shortly after lunch attempting to pull Michael Kasprowicz and top-edging a simple catch to Chris Lewis at mid-on. With a century in sight and Essex having lost their third wicket in seven overs to the last ball before the interval, it was an uncontrolled and disappointing end to a brave innings.

Stuart Law also played his part. His morning duel with Kasprowicz, his Queensland team-mate, was engrossing. Twice Law struck Kasprowicz for a brace of off-side boundaries. Looking for the single that would have taken him to his half-century, however, he glanced a catch to Paul Nixon down the leg side off James Ormond.

Ronnie Irani, Paul Grayson and Stephen Peters followed shortly after — proof, if any were needed, that Essex remain vulnerable. They have a long way to go, but at least they are competing.



Lord's entertains Court jester



SARAH POTTER

More than a double century had to tick by on the scoreboard until the day last month when ten women were made honorary members of MCC. None was seen at Lord's for the start of the county championship on Tuesday, but the red membership card means that they can creak across the boards of the Long Room for any match they choose. Mostly older, all deserving, none is a revolutionary. One, though, is a maverick happy to surprise.

Jackie Court admits that she was an unexpected choice. "My name will have raised some eyebrows," she said. "One reaction I've heard is, 'What has she done to deserve it?' but mostly people have been pleased for me. I had one letter saying, 'That's two fingers to those who wouldn't give you the captaincy'."

Better to salute her 40 England appearances. With the exception of the World Cup in 1982, Court was vice-captain for almost a decade. "That World Cup in New Zealand was a duff period," she said. "I was not flavour of the month with the selectors and I did feel victimised."

Such admissions are rare, for Court and jester go together like bat and ball. Playing the fool may have cost her the captaincy, but charisma and tactical intuition were true qualities to set her apart. "I don't regret any of my behaviour," she said. "Although there probably were a few occasions when my joking went over the top. What I do regret is not applying myself better when I was actually playing."

Court, 49, an only child, was brought up in West London and attributes much of her happy-go-lucky style to her surroundings. "I lived in an Afro-Caribbean area and I think that's why I played the way I did," she said. "It was always about fun."

The male of the species most similar to Court would not, however, be a West Indian. Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, has the same cricketing DNA. His physical appearance makes him a figure of fun and reveals a batsman keener on boundaries than quick singles, yet his tactics often outmanoeuvre the most fleet of foot.

Also like Ranatunga, Court was sometimes considered too big for her boots. In the then straitened world of women's cricket — where the begging bowl was usually empty and positions of authority filled only by those who had the time — such a personality was never likely to be embraced.

"I was accused of being drunk during a Test in 1979," she said, "and got the blame when some of the team were 15 minutes late for the curfew. Neither was right, but when the sponsors wanted to host a party for the team later in the year, I was told I couldn't go because of my behaviour."

Court, though, has much to celebrate about her career, not least two appearances at Lord's, separated by 11 years. "The first time women played there was in 1976," she said. "I remember all the applause from the members as Rachael [Heyhoe Flint] led us out and the tremendous reception from the people in the Tavern stand. I didn't realise the effect us being there was eventually going to have."

Court will be more immediately at ease in the game's hallowed home than most. She took a variety of administrative jobs to accommodate — and pay for — her cricket, including a spell as commercial secretary for Middlesex CCC. Since then, having given up playing nine years ago, she has become a financial adviser with Allied Dunbar.

"I am happy, but it's not the same as being in sport," she said. "Even some of the boys in the office don't understand that. They say Martin O'Neill used to work for Save & Prosper and can't understand why he left to manage a football club. They think you can earn more money being a financial adviser. I tell them to get a life, because it isn't just about earning money."

Court's present sporting life centres on the golf course in Ruislip, where she plays off a handicap of 16. Is she a member? "Funnily enough," she said with a smile. "I'm joining later this year."



Court: "My inclusion will have raised some eyebrows". Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

PPP Healthcare county championship

Durham v Worcestershire

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four; Durham won toss): Durham, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 120 runs behind Worcestershire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings

W P C Weston c Daley b Betts	2
P R Pollard lbw b Brown	14
V S Solanki lbw b Betts	4
D A Leatherdale c Daley b Brown	85
E J Wilson c Betts b Brown	0
*†S J Rhodes c Speight b Harmison	15
S R Lampitt c Collingwood b Harmison	1
R K Illingworth c Speight b Brown	13
A Sheriyar b Brown	11
J M de la Pena c Speight b Brown	0
C G Liptrot not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 4)	7
Total	152

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-7, 3-33, 4-35, 5-77, 6-82, 7-136, 8-141, 9-145

BOWLING: Brown 15.1-6-25-6; Betts 12-2-48-2; Wood 12-3-39-0; Harmison 8-2-20-2; Gough 3-1-7-0; Collingwood 2-0-12-0

DURHAM: First innings

J J B Lewis not out	18
M A Gough lbw b Sheriyar	0
J E Morris not out	13
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (1 wkt)	32

J A Daley, *D C Boon, P D Collingwood, †M P Speight, M M Betts, J Wood, S J E Brown and S J Harmison to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-5

BOWLING: Sheriyar 5-0-22-1, de la Pena 4-2-7-0, Leatherdale 1-0-2-0.

Bonus points: Durham 4.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and G I Burgess.

Essex v Leicestershire

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Leicestershire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 130 runs behind Essex

ESSEX: First innings

P J Prichard c Lewis b Kasprowicz	91
D D J Robinson c Nixon b Lewis	13
I N Flanagan lbw b Kasprowicz	0
S G Law c Nixon b Ormond	49
*R C Irani b Lewis	10
A P Grayson run out Maddy	0
S D Peters lbw b Dakin	0
†R J Rollins c Nixon b Kasprowicz	3
A P Cowan c Sutcliffe b Brimson	17
M C Ilott lbw b Ormond	16
P M Such not out	18
Extras (lb 10, w 2, nb 23)	35
Total	252

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-45, 3-144, 4-181, 5-187, 6-187, 7-193, 8-204, 9-228.

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 28-10-78-3; Lewis 27-6-85-2; Ormond 18.1-4-38-2; Dakin 11-3-31-1; Brimson 2-1-9-1.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings

D L Maddy b Ilott	46
I J Sutcliffe c Rollins b Ilott	11
A Habib c Rollins b Irani	3
B F Smith b Cowan	14
*J J Whitaker not out	29
† P A Nixon not out	13
Extras (lb 4, nb 2)	6
Total (4 wkts)	122

C C Lewis, J M Dakin, J Ormond, M S Kasprowicz and M T Brimson to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-63, 3-63, 4-86

BOWLING: Ilott 14.1-7-34-2, Cowan 13-3-33-1, Irani 8-2-22-1, Such 6-0-29-0

Bonus points. Essex 2 Leics 4.

Umpires: R Julian and R Palmer

Middlesex v Kent

LORD'S (second day of four): Kent, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 233 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First innings

M A Roseberry b Headley	6
J L Langer c Marsh b Thompson	55
*M R Ramprakash c Key b Fleming	12
R A Kettleborough c Ward b Thompson	0
O A Shah b Fleming	16
P N Weekes c Fleming b Thompson	14
†D C Nash not out	62
J P Hewitt b Patel	25
R L Johnson lbw b Patel	28
S J Cook c Walker b Patel	0
P C R Tufnell c Walker b Thompson	5
Extras (b 7, lb 4, nb 20)	31
Total	254

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-48, 3-51, 4-100, 5-118, 6-137, 7-194, 8-246, 9-246

BOWLING: Headley 26-4-79-1, Thompson 23.5-5-61-4, Fleming 21-9-42-2; Symonds 15-3-40-0; Patel 10-3-21-3

KENT: First innings

E T Smith lbw b Cook	3
R W T Key not out	16
T R Ward not out	1
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (1 wkt)	21

A P Wells, A Symonds, M J Walker, †S A Marsh, *M V Fleming, D W Headley, J B Thompson and M M Patel to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-10.

BOWLING: Cook 7-3-11-1, Johnson 7-3-9-0; Hewitt 3-3-0-0.

Bonus Points: Middlesex 2, Kent 4.

Umpires: J H Harris and A Clarkson

Surrey v Gloucestershire

THE OVAL (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 287 runs behind Surrey

SURREY: First innings

*M A Butcher b Smith	68
I J Ward lbw b Harvey	78
J D Ratcliffe b Harvey	0
N Shahid c Windows b Harvey	12
A D Brown lbw b Smith	11
B C Hollioake lbw b Ball	49
†J N Batty lbw b Smith	37
G P Butcher b Lewis	9
A J Tudor c Russell b Smith	6
I D K Salisbury lbw b Alleyne	17
M P Bicknell not out	49
Extras (nb 6)	6
Total	342

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-131, 2-146, 3-160, 4-171, 5-179, 6-248, 7-266, 8-270, 9-283

BOWLING: Smith 32-9-93-4; Lewis 32-12-76-1; Harvey 26-10-77-3, Alleyne 20.2-8-44-1; Ball 14-4-36-1, Snape 5-1-16-0.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First innings

K J Barnett c Batty b Bicknell	17
T H C Hancock not out	23
D R Hewson b Salisbury	6
*M W Alleyne not out	5
Extras (lb 2, w 2)	4
Total (2 wkts)	55

M G N Windows, I J Harvey, J N Snape, †R C Russell, M C J Ball, J Lewis and A M Smith to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-39

BOWLING: Bicknell 10-1-35-1, Tudor 6-1-14-0, Salisbury 3-2-4-1

Bonus points. Surrey 3 Gloucs 4.

Umpires: B Dudleston and J F Steele.

Lancashire v Sussex

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four; Sussex won toss). Sussex have scored 285 for five wickets against Lancashire

SUSSEX: First innings

R R Montgomerie c Chilton b Chapple	62
M T E Peirce c Hegg b Martin	77
*C J Adams c Hegg b Smethurst	36
M J Di Venuto lbw b Schofield	31
P A Cottey b Watkinson	46
R K Rao not out	6
R J Kirtley not out	5
Extras (b 2, lb 2, w 2, nb 26)	32
Total (5 wkts)	285

R S C Martin-Jenkins, †S Humphries, M A Robinson and U B A Rashid to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-136, 2-174, 3-209, 4-233, 5-279.

BOWLING: Martin 22-5-48-1, Chapple 21-4-61-1; Smethurst 19-1-58-1; Watkinson 17-5-42-1, Schofield 17-1-72-1

LANCASHIRE: M Chilton, N Wood, *J P Crawley, P C McKeown, G D Lloyd, M Watkinson, †W K Hegg, C P Schofield, G Chapple, P J Martin, M P Smethurst.

Umpires: N A Mallender and G Sharp.

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

EDGBASTON (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire have scored 126 for three wickets against Northamptonshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First innings

M A Wagh lbw b Malcolm	0
M J Powell c Loye b Taylor	20
D L Hemp not out	61
T L Penney c Ripley b Malcolm	6
†K J Piper retired hurt	8
D R Brown not out	29
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (3 wkts)	126

*N M K Smith, A F Giles, G Welch, T A Munton and E S H Giddins to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-38, 3-59.

BOWLING: Malcolm 12-1-43-2; Taylor 14-5-27-1, Swann 7-4-6-0, Follett 5-0-30-0; Penberthy 9-4-18-0

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: *M L Hayden, R J Bailey, M B Loye, R J Warren, D J G Sales, A L Penberthy, G P Swann, †D Ripley, J P Taylor, D Follett, D E Malcolm

Umpires M J Kitchen and A G T Whitehead

University matches

Oxford University v Hampshire

THE PARKS (first day of three, Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 291 for three wickets against Oxford University

HAMPSHIRE: First innings

J P Stephenson c Louw b Hicks	136
G W White lbw b Mather	5
W S Kendall lbw b Mather	24
*R A Smith retired hurt	45
†A N Aymes not out	69
S Lugsden not out	3
Extras (lb 7, nb 2)	9
Total (3 wkts)	291

D A Kenway, A D Mascarenhas, S D Udal, A C Morris and S J Renshaw to bat

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-7, 2-49, 3-279

BOWLING: Kino 24-10-50-0, Mather 22-6-57-2; Khan 15-2-66-0, Hicks 19-4-63-1, Byrne 16-4-48-0

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: D J Eadie, N G Pirihi, *J A Claughton, B W Byrne, J A G Fulton, J H Louw, †J P B Barnes, D Kino, T C Hicks, S H Khan, D P Mather

Umpires T E Jesty and J W Lloyds

Nottinghamshire v Cambridge University

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of three). Nottinghamshire drew with Cambridge University

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First innings

A R Danson c Johnson b Evans	17
I Mohammed lbw b Lucas	13
*Q J Hughes lbw b Lucas	30
J P Pyemont lbw b Lucas	13
G R Loveridge c Read b Dowman	87
R G Halsall lbw b Evans	76
†B J Collins c Read b Evans	0
K D M Walker lbw b Wharf	6
C R Pimlott not out	18
C A Sayers not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 8, w 4, nb 12)	26
Total (8 wkts dec)	287

J P Lowe did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-25, 2-51, 3-80, 4-89, 5-200, 6-238, 7-252, 8-284.

BOWLING: Lucas 22-11-62-3 Wharf 22-5-66-1, Evans 21-5-70-3, Gallian 7-4-14-0, Stemp 17-8-38-0, Dowman 5-0-25-1, Afzaal 2-1-2-0.

Second innings

A R Danson not out	30
I Mohammed not out	8
Total (no wkt dec)	38

BOWLING: Gie 4-0-26-0; Afzaal 2-1-2-0, Johnson 1-0-10-0.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First innings forfeited

Second innings

G E Welton c Hughes b Walker	38
U Afzaal b Sayers	18
*J E R Gallian st Lowe b Sayers	1
P Johnson c Collins b Walker	14
N A Gie not out	59
M P Dowman c Collins b Walker	52
†C M W Read not out	12
Extras (b 14, lb 2, w 2)	18
Total (5 wkts)	212

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59, 2-61, 3-75, 4-83, 5-181

BOWLING: Halsall 6-1-20-0, Pimlott 9-3-16-0; Sayers 8-2-21-2, Walker 19-4-65-3, Loveridge 15-1-74-0

Umpires: P Carrick and D J Constant.

Sussex as fickle as the forecast

By John Stern

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four; Sussex won toss): Sussex have scored 285 for five wickets against Lancashire

PREDICTIONS are a waste of time. There was to be snow in Manchester yesterday, according to the weather forecasters. Instead, there was glorious sunshine for most of the day, admittedly accompanied by Arctic temperatures. Sussex had posted only one opening stand of a hundred or more in almost two years yet their new opening partnership of Richard Montgomerie and Toby Peirce put on 136 for the first wicket. Just to add to the sense of abnormality, there was the marvellous sight of an Englishman, Chris Schofield, bowling leg spin — and turning the ball — in mid-April.

Woolly hats off to Peter Marron, the Old Trafford groundsman, for producing a wicket of even bounce, and not without pace, that also encouraged the spinners after the previous day's horrid squalls. After the ice had been removed from the covers, the game was able to start a day and half an hour late.

The arrival of Montgomerie from Northamptonshire is hardly the sort of signing to precipitate a deluge of county membership applications. However, he is a young man, at 27, who feels that he deserved better from his previous county and, as a result, has a point to prove. He made only one championship half-century last year in 16 innings. Yesterday he and Peirce batted as if they had spent a good deal longer together at the crease than one innings in a friendly against Durham last week. They looked keenly for the quick singles early on, left the ball competently and played aggressive strokes when the opportunity allowed.

Lancashire's seamers generally bowled with too much width although Peter Martin was unfortunate to pass Montgomerie's bat on a number of occasions without reward, and also see an inside edge fly past Warren Hegg's hand for four.



Prichard: anchored Essex innings at Chelmsford

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Norway's Geir Helgemo, who won the World Individual title in 1996, is one of the world's top players. In the recent Cap Gemini tournament he was the only declarer to bring home a difficult slam.

Dealer West — N-S game — Teams

North: ♠ – ♡ 5 3 ◊ K J 4 3 ♣ A J 10 9 8 5 2

West: ♠ K Q 9 7 6 5 4 ♡ Q ◊ Q 9 2 ♣ 7 6

East: ♠ A J 8 3 ♡ 10 9 7 6 4 ◊ 7 ♣ K Q 4

South: ♠ 10 2 ♡ A K J 8 2 ◊ A 10 8 6 5 ♣ 3

S	W	N	E
–	3S	4C	4S
Double	Pass	4NT	Pass
6D	All Pass		

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: king of spades.

North's *Four No-Trump* bid showed a higher-ranking second suit to go with his long clubs. That was enough to persuade South to try Six Diamonds.

West led the king of spades and Helgemo ruffed. Although there are no immediate losers twelve tricks are still a long way off.

Keeping his options open, declarer came to hand with a top heart. When West produced the queen it was clear that that suit could not be established. Helgemo now crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. He ruffed his remaining spade and ruffed another club low. It would not have helped West to overruff so he discarded a spade. With the club suit established declarer now played a winning heart. Again West could not benefit by ruffing so he discarded another spade. Now declarer ruffed a losing heart in dummy, cashed the king of diamonds and played a winning club to dispose of his remaining heart loser. West could ruff but only at the cost of his trump trick.

This line would fail if the outstanding trumps were 2-2 with West having the queen, as East could ruff the fourth club. If declarer discards his losing heart East plays a heart, promoting West's queen of trumps. However, from the bidding and early play Helgemo reckoned West had seven spades and one heart. If East discards on the third club then West is 7-1-2-3. In that case declarer simply draws trumps ending in dummy and makes all thirteen tricks.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ARDE
An earthworm
A pattern of brickwork
Slow

PYIELD
To resign
Proportion of grain to chaff
A nickname

TELEARCH
a. Top arch in a clerestory
b. An absent ruler
c. A Theban magistrate

TROVER
a. A pirate
b. Finder's keeper's
c. An extinct breed of hound

Answers on page 49

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Adams leads

Michael Adams, of Great Britain, is the sole leader in the powerful tournament at Dos Hermanas, in Spain. While great names such as Karpov and Anand are languishing at the other end of the tournament table, Adams is heading towards one of the greatest successes of his career. Scores after six rounds are: Adams 4½; Kramnik 4; Illescas, Topalov and Gelfand 3½; Karpov 3; Korchnoi 2½; Anand and Svidler 2; Polgar 1½.

The main obstacles to Adams' victory in the tournament will be his forthcoming games against the Russians, Vladimir Kramnik and Anatoly Karpov. In the sixth round, Adams won a dramatic game against Judit Polgar.

White: Judit Polgar
Black: Michael Adams
Dos Hermanas 1999
Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	0-0
8	c3	d5
9	exd5	Nxd5
10	Nxe5	Nxe5
11	Rxe5	c6
12	d3	Bd6
13	Re1	Qh4
14	g3	Qh3
15	Re4	Qf5
16	Nd2	Qg6
17	Re1	f5
18	Qf3	Kh8
19	Bd1	f4
20	g4	h5
21	h3	Nf6
22	Qg2	hxg4
23	hxg4	Bxg4
24	Re6	Qh5
25	Bxg4	Nxg4
26	Rxd6	Rae8
27	Ne4	Ne5
28	f3	Nxf3+
29	Kf2	Nh4
30	Qh1	g5
31	b4	g4
32	Bb2	g3+
33	Kg1	Nf3+
34	Kg2	Nh2
35	c4+	Kg8
36	Qd1	f3+
37	Kxg3	Qg4+
38	Kf2	Qh4+
39	Ke3	Qf4+
40	Kd4	Qe5+
41	Ke3	Ng4+
42	Kd2	Qxb2+
43	Qc2	Qxa1
44	Rg6+	Kh7
45	Rxg4	f2 White resigns

Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions will be published here or in the Saturday *Times Weekend* column.

Times book

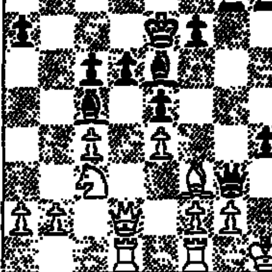
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

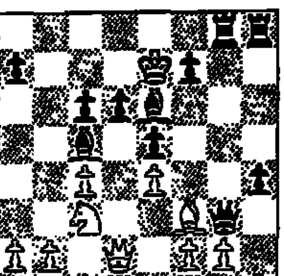
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Feitosa — Rodrigues, Brasilia 1999.

Can you see how Black stormed through on the kingside with a brilliant tactical sequence?





Solution on page 49

Stephenson slowly warms to his task

THE PARKS (first day of three; Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 291 for three wickets against Oxford University

IT WAS a "nearly" day in Oxford. Nearly a beautiful day to watch cricket and nearly a day of beautiful cricket (Barney Spender writes). Unfortunately, a bitterly cold wind and a sluggish pitch ensured that, in spite of a century from John Stephenson, it fell marginally short on both counts.

There was a hint of sunshine towards the end of a full day's play, but the cold, it seemed, affected the bowlers, who sent down rather more full tosses and long hops than might reasonably be expected from a university attack. The honourable exception was David Mather, who kept a tight line with his left-arm military and twice straightened the ball to have Giles White and Will Kendall leg-before.

Stephenson, however, overcame a laboured start to take full advantage. Dropped in the gully in the seventeenth over when had made just 18, he began to find the gaps and his first fifty included ten boundaries. A square drive for four off Mather, his nineteenth boundary, posted his hundred in four hours and 40 minutes.

His dismissal, a slog to long-on, ended a third wicket partnership — between three batsmen — of 230. Stephenson added 89 with Robin Smith before the Hampshire captain retired hurt with spasms in his left hand, and 141 with Adrian Aymes, who was 69 not out at the close.

Cambridge in no mood to take risks

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of three): Nottinghamshire drew with Cambridge University

AFTER all the hard work by the groundsmen and umpires to ensure a prompt start yesterday, this match deserved a better fate than to finish as a tame draw (Rupert Cox writes). But once Cambridge University had found a need to bat again after lunch, the outcome was never in doubt.

A target of 326 in what transpired to be 63 overs was far too stiff for Nottinghamshire, who gleaned a mere 20 batting points in last season's championship.

In the morning, the students had dithered once Greg Loveridge and Richard Halsall departed, both after fluent innings. The former perished when he gloved a short ball from Matthew Dowman, while Halsall was trapped in front by one that nipped back. Why Cambridge could not raise the tempo was difficult to understand.

With Guy Welton and Usman Afzaal batting for first-team places, Nottinghamshire crept along at little more than two runs an over and got far behind the required rate on a typically slow early-season pitch.

Afzaal eventually fell to a wild slog while Jason Gallian was deftly stumped by Birks down the leg side — two wickets for Chris Sayers on his debut. Paul Johnson succumbed as he vainly tried to lift the pace but there was time enough for Dowman and Noel Gie to complete handsome half-centuries.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ WILLEM KORSTEN, the Vitesse Arnhem midfield player, has rejected a permanent transfer to Leeds United, despite agreeing financial terms. Korsten was expected to sign a long-term deal after his loan spell ended this summer. Peter Ridsdale, the Leeds chairman, said that he was mystified by the player's decision. "It's very disappointing. It's the first example I've ever had of a player who has asked for an amount of money on a contract and then, when you offer it to him, decides not to take it," Ridsdale said.

■ The Football Association of Wales (FAW) remains optimistic that the final Euro 2000 qualifying match against Switzerland will be played at Ninian Park, Cardiff, in October, as originally scheduled. The plan had been put in jeopardy because the Wales rugby union team are due to play Japan in the World Cup at the city's Millennium Stadium on October 9. "South Wales Constabulary have told us it wouldn't be possible to police both matches on the same day but, according to the international calendar, our match can be played on the Saturday or the Sunday [October 10]," David Collins, the secretary-general of the FAW, said.

■ The entire Bank of Scotland Scottish Premier League programme for the final day of the season has been switched to Sunday, May 23. The fixtures, which include the potentially crucial games between Rangers and Kilmarnock, and Dundee United and Celtic, have all been set for a 6.05pm kick-off.

■ Alan Thompson, the Aston Villa midfield player who suffered a hamstring injury after five minutes of the match against Southampton last Saturday, is unlikely to play again this season, John Gregory, the Villa manager, said yesterday.

■ England Under-16s will play Hungary, Sweden and Slovakia in their initial group when they compete in the European championship finals in the Czech Republic later this month. England qualified with victories over Cyprus and Armenia in the qualifying group.

Keegan confident that his side will continue in the ascendant

Fulham's future is founded on optimism

By Alyson Rudd

PERHAPS it has something to do with his responsibility for the England side, but Kevin Keegan was careful not to sound naive on Tuesday night after Fulham secured their passage to the Nationwide League first division. Even so, Keegan's brand of realism is mighty optimistic. He refuses to call Fulham a big club — "this is a wonderful, medium-sized club", he enthuses — but there appears no doubt in his mind that the West London side will negotiate the first division almost as easily as they did the second.

In some respects, life will be simpler. Keegan has frequently countered remarks that Fulham have bought their success with the retort that the second division boasts many teams capable of lifting their game to attempt to thwart his side.

Almost every match since Mohamed Al Fayed took control at Craven Cottage nearly two years ago has been played in a cup-tie spirit, with Fulham seen as a worthy scalp.

Come August, Fulham will no longer stand out like a tiara-clad princess down the bingo hall; there will be other moneyed teams and clubs with far more inspirational traditions than those of Fulham, who dropped out of the top flight in 1968, never finishing higher than tenth place.

Even so, with players of the calibre found in the Fulham ranks, it would have been more difficult to fail than succeed these past nine months. The statistic reeled off by Keegan that since he took on the demands of England coach Fulham have won 11 of their 12 matches and drawn the other, can be interpreted either as proof of Keegan's ability to do two jobs as well as one, or as evidence that Fulham were so well-stocked that they could win promotion while on autopilot.

Naturally, Keegan has not ruled out the acquisition of new players for a new division — he has already spent £12 million to bolster the team — although he gives warning that "you can't just open a chequebook up and throw money at a club". That is certainly true: money has to be spent wisely and the planning has to be long-term.

Gasps of astonishment greeted Keegan's decision to pay £2 million to Bristol Rovers for their striker, Barry Hayles. Even Fulham supporters were aghast, and they gave Hayles a difficult time when he initially struggled to acclimatise. It is hard to see Hayles blossoming in the first division, whereas Geoff Horsfield, a former bricklayer who cost £300,000 from Halifax Town, represents arguably the best investment that Al Fayed has made.

Horsfield did not shine against Gillingham on Tuesday, but then few players did. He is, though, strong and diligent with an eye for goal and after he destroyed Luton Town virtually single-handed in March, Keegan did not laugh off tongue-in-cheek suggestions that he might put Horsfield in the England squad.

There will be little experimentation next season. If the players are not quite up to it, Keegan will certainly buy in replacements: everything is geared to a future in the FA Carling Premiership. Al Fayed wants to turn Craven Cottage into a stadium with a capacity of 25,000.

"People were suspicious when he came here," Keegan said. "They thought the place might become a block of flats." Once the Cottage can hold 25,000 and is hosting Premiership action, that will be that, according to Keegan. The dream will go no further. "We will never be able to do what we did at Newcastle here, but we can make it special."

And that, it seems, is what keeps Keegan from dumping Fulham for England on a full-time basis. Being the coach of the England team is just not special enough. "England comes and goes, you get 12 games a year. I enjoy working with players on a day-to-day basis." And for as long as the statistics bear him out, both the Football Association and Al Fayed can stay happy.



High hopes: Keegan believes his job will be done when Fulham are in the Premiership

Bolton bring relief to man in the stand

By Russell Kempson

SUPPORTERS of Bolton Wanderers feared that something was amiss when they noticed the absence of Colin Todd, the club's manager, from the dugout during the 1-0 win against Bristol City at the Reebok Stadium on Tuesday night. There was no sign of the usually animated character urging his players on to greater effort.

They need not have worried. Todd was sitting in the upper tier of the main stand, taking a bird's-eye view of proceedings. "I thought I'd sit upstairs, take stock of things and try to relax a bit more," he said.

Bolton needed the victory — only their second in 11 matches — to strengthen their play-off position and keep alive their hopes of a swift return to the FA Carling Premiership, from which they were relegated last season. Eidur Gudjohnsen's seventh-minute goal proved enough to lift them into fifth place.

"It's put a bit of daylight between us and Watford, who are seventh, and that's just what we needed," Todd said. "It's nice to get back in the winning habit, but we've now got to build on it. I had the players in for training last Sunday, we had a good chat and I hope the penny has dropped at last."

Todd has added Derek Fazackerley to his coaching staff until the end of the season. Fazackerley has worked with Kevin Keegan at Newcastle United, Roy Hodgson at Blackburn Rovers and has again teamed up with Keegan in his part-time job with England.

Defeat for Bristol City ended their run of three successive wins. Together with Port Vale's 1-1 home draw against Bradford City, it further confuses the relegation issue, with the five clubs at the bottom now separated by two points. Bradford lost ground in the chase for the second automatic promotion slot behind Sunderland. They lead Ipswich Town only on goals scored and have played one game more.

Walsall enhanced their chances of automatic promotion in the second division, behind Fulham, with a 1-0 win against Bournemouth at Dean Court, Darren Wrack scoring in the 14th minute. It was their 12th away victory this season. "We defended well and broke when we could," Ray Graydon, the Walsall manager, said. "We work hard and we've become very difficult to beat."

Preston North End faltered in a 2-2 draw away to Wigan Athletic, although they twice recovered from a goal behind. They have won only once in six matches, trail Walsall by three points and have played a game more, but the teams meet at Deepdale this Tuesday.

In the third division, Cardiff City moved level on points with Cambridge United, the leaders, after winning 1-0 away to Southend United. Cambridge, who have two games in hand over their Welsh rivals, were surprisingly held 1-1 at home by Rochdale. Brentford also appear destined for automatic promotion after beating Chester City 3-1.



Todd: taking stock

ATHLETICS: SOUTH AFRICAN READY TO HIT THE LONDON STREETS IN THE FORM OF HER LIFE

Meyer targets paper tigers

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

BEFORE Elana Meyer had the chance to run against Liz McColgan on track, road or country, she raced her on paper. There was no other way. Meyer, as a South African, was banned from international athletics before 1992. She would compare the times that she ran in the isolation of her homeland with those McColgan clocked around the world.

McColgan's finest hour was one of Meyer's worst, the Scot's 10,000 metres triumph at the 1991 world championships in Tokyo. Meyer was in the stadium watching. "I hated every moment," she said yesterday. "I ran the fastest time in the world in 1991 [at 3,000 and 5,000 metres]." Meyer had two paper victories, McColgan the gold medal.

In the Flora London Marathon on Sunday, the roles are reversed. Meyer will be running while McColgan is forced to watch. McColgan, a top-two finisher in each of the past three years, is pregnant and will join the BBC commentary



In *The Times* next week, a comprehensive list of all the finishers in the London Marathon

team. If Meyer wins, there is one aspect that McColgan can comment on with authority. "We both were told we had career-threatening injuries, yet we both fought back to win the London Marathon," is an area she might expand on.

McColgan overcame her injury to win in 1996. That was the year that Meyer suffered hers, tearing an Achilles tendon during the Olympic marathon. "Doctors said I would be lucky if I ran a marathon again," Meyer said.

In the image of McColgan, Meyer thought she knew better than the doctors. "I never thought I would not run again," she said. "I was committed to come back and I came back stronger." Strong enough, she believes, not only to win on Sunday but to go some way towards fulfilling the prophecy made eight years ago by Zola Budd.

"Elana has the ability to run a sub 2:20 marathon," Budd said in 1991. Meyer, born in 1966, did not envy her compatriot's escape from South Africa to run for Great Britain, although she became her only serious rival in their homeland once the wanderer returned from Britain. "It was always Elana versus Zola, you get a bit tired of that," Meyer said.



CHRIS HARRIS

Meyer has overcome the frustration of international isolation and serious injury to set her sights on marathon victory

While Budd was going through her traumatic experience, Meyer was furthering her education and making steady progress as an athlete. She gained an honours degree in business economics at Stellenbosch University but, prior to that, attended boarding school in the farming town of Roberston. "I learned to think for myself there," she said.

Meyer grew up in the countryside, in Albertina, a small town in the south-western Cape. Running was a natural response to her environment. "In the cities, kids have so many other things to do," she said. While Budd suffered from lack of good parenting, Meyer was protected. "It was a real advantage that I was never pushed at a young age," she said.

Soon after McColgan's victory in Tokyo, South Africa was readmitted from 16 years in isolation in time for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Meyer finished runner-up to Derartu Tulu, from Ethiopia, in the 10,000 metres, black and white Africa symbolically sharing a track and a celebration.

"Back in 1984, when Zola competed at the Olympics, I also qualified for South Africa [theoretically] but for another eight years I could not compete internationally, so it was really special to run in the Olympics," Meyer said. "Even though gold would have been better, emotionally it was a special achievement. Even if I win a gold medal in the future it will never be as rewarding as the medal in Barcelona."

Since then, Meyer's career has suffered interruptions through injury and marathon near-misses, although she did win the world half-marathon title and World Cup 10,000 metres in 1994. She has finished second twice and third once in the Boston Marathon and a third in Chicago. Her best time is 2hr 25min 15sec, set in her first marathon.

So what about Zola's prediction? "It is my goal to run under 2:20, but it is unrealistic if your best is 2:25, so my aim is to go closer to that on Sunday." Her 66:44 half-marathon victory in Tokyo in January, together with the best training form of her life, and nine months without injury, make her the woman to beat.

The withdrawal yesterday of Fernanda Ribeiro removed another tree from her path. Ribeiro joins Catherina McKiernan, last year's winner, on the injury list. Record prize and bonus money is on offer for Sunday, with some $200,000 (around £124,000) within Meyer's grasp. Long gone are the days when Meyer raced on paper. The real paper chase awaits.



WEBSITE:
www.london-marathon.co.uk — official event site
TELEVISION:
Sunday, BBC1, live from 8.45am

Making an exhibition of marathon runners

If you think that the thousands of men and women plodding their way around the miles of the Flora London Marathon this Sunday need superhuman stamina, you should see them when they stagger to pick up their running numbers.

They will be there today, at the London Arena, great herds of them, men and women, the short, the tall, the thin and the very thin, standing in line for the toughest event in town — the Great London Marathon Exhibition.

As they shuffle forward clutching their Flora London Marathon bags, with their numbers and the microchips that they tape to their shoes to monitor every step, all their months of training and self-discipline will be cruelly put to the test. For they step into a strange and challenging maze of stalls, stands and screens — half Aladdin's cave, half Ideal Running Kit Exhibition.

It's stuffed with running shoes, kit, videos, books, gadgets, gels, pills and strange potions — all guaranteed to make even the most well-prepared runner feel hopelessly inadequate.

Can you really contemplate going to the start line on Sunday without a "chill-band" that refrigerates your head, a magic pain-relieving patch, or a Velcro clip to strap energy bars to your shorts? In case the weather is foul on race day, you can even get yourself a pair of waterproof socks called "Porelle drys". There is a guy jogging round and round in an inflatable paddling pool offering to let you feel his feet as proof that they work.

The best advice for any marathon runner in the days leading up to the race is: don't try anything new and don't buy anything new. Try telling that to the mid-pack runners nervously



padding round the shoe-packed stands. These men and women are vulnerable, ever ready to be seduced by the go-faster promises that lurk in the aisles.

At every turn there are shoes that must be faster, lighter and more comfortable than the ones that you trusted would get you past Buckingham Palace. Not only that, but they are all on special exhibition offer with irresistible discounts.

If you go off slowly, you can browse among armfuls of souvenirs — thimbles and T-shirts, tankards and teddy bears. You can arrange to have your photograph taken and blown up as a memento of your finest four hours for £35. You can get your running gait analysed, you can sign up for the Millennium Marathon in New Zealand or you can pick up an Ironman sports watch with a built-in personal organiser.

> 'You can't start the race without your chill-band'

The exhibition, like the marathon itself, makes plenty of space for charity. There are London Marathon posters for Kosovo victims at £3 each, and competitors are encouraged to sport a golden ribbon in the race to show solidarity with the refugees. Get Kids Going, a charity devoted to the needs of handicapped children, encourages the runners to let off steam and support their cause by covering the hapless Captain Beany in a bath with cold baked beans straight out of the can. And if your legs are beginning to tire, with the miles covered up and down the aisles, you can get yourself a massage in aid of charity — 15 minutes for £5.

For the foot-weary, one shoe company has a team of masseurs and sports injury therapists on standby. They even have a podiatrist, a foot balance specialist, who normally works with top athletes such as Jonathan Edwards, the triple jumper, ready to cast his eye over the most battered feet in town. Those who prefer the do-it-yourself approach are encouraged to pummel their own bodies with a Ron Hill massage stick or a small wooden ladybird.

The more energetic can get their bodies wired up and tested on treadmills before renewing depleted stores of glycogen with buckets of pasta and endless free samples of energy bars. They can, and do, preview every step of the coming ordeal on video, and anyone desperately in search of "The Winning Edge" can buy a book of that name by Alastair Aitken, who oozes enthusiasm for running and who has never yet missed a London Marathon. Like everything else, it's on special offer, of course.

Suitably inspired, they can then sign up with Sportstours International for a training camp in Lanzarote for the London Marathon next year.

After months of training, some of Sunday's would-be contestants have got incredible reserves of stamina and are quite capable of putting in four or five hours on their feet at this exhibition, drinking in the atmosphere and the free samples. Others are so seduced by it that they'll put in several guest appearances over the four days that the exhibition runs.

You can spot the ones who have been at it for hours, they look gaunt and desperately in need of a rest and a drink. But they will be there in their new shoes and shiny new kit on Sunday morning. If you think they look exhausted, remember it may not have been the race that did it, merely the hours they put in at the Great Exhibition.

As one runner said: "Last year I did four hours in the race and 5½ at the exhibition". Now that is stamina.

John Bryant



No self-respecting London Marathon runner should be without a ladybird massager to warm the muscles

BASKETBALL

Robinson appeal thrown out

By Nicholas Harling

MAURICE ROBINSON, the 6ft 8in Derby Storm forward, has been banned for 12 months after losing his appeal for failing to provide a complete urine sample.

The decision was announced yesterday by the English Basketball Association after its appeal panel had met with representatives of Robinson's club. The second six months of the ban will be suspended.

A product of Florida State University and Oklahoma State University, both of which he represented in the early Nineties, Robinson, 25, was tested by Sports Council officials after the Uni-ball Trophy final against Manchester Giants last month. After producing only 25mm of the required 75mm, Robinson walked off, contravening the anti-doping regulations.

Robinson's ban adds to a wretched season for the Storm. Once the only realistic challengers to Sheffield Sharks and the Giants, the Storm fell away to finish sixth.

Twice in his first season with the club Bob Donewald, their coach, received two-game bans for his misbehaviour but the real low point came in January when the Storm's Budweiser League fixture away to Chester was abandoned after 28 seconds because of brawling.

Rico Alderson was banned until the end of the season for his part in the incident while Yorick Williams received a seven-game ban.

CYCLING

Powerful Bartoli hangs on

By Jeremy Whittle

MICHELE BARTOLI, the world No 1, secured an outstanding victory in the Belgian Classic Flèche Wallonne yesterday, overcoming Martin Den Bakker, his long-time breakaway companion, and the freezing rain sweeping across the Ardennes.

"It was a horrible day," Bartoli said, "but it was a great race. It was the most spectacular win of my career, because of the weather and the distance of the breakaway."

The Italian attacked 80 kilometres from the finish of the hilly 200-kilometre race, with Den Bakker, of Holland, and Oscar Camenzind, of Switzerland. Camenzind dropped back to leave Bartoli and Den Bakker to fight it out.

Laurent Jalabert, of France, making his first appearance in a Société du Tour de France-promoted event since last July when he led the walk-out of Spanish teams from the Tour de France, was unable to respond. There was a late pursuit from Michael Boogerd, of Holland, but Bartoli's power over the final climb ensured his first win in the "Walloon Arrow".

Bartoli, twice a winner of this weekend's Liège-Bastogne-Liège race, is now the favourite for what is the oldest one-day classic on the European calendar. Hanka Kupfernagel, of Germany, won the women's race with Yvonne Macgregor and Caroline Alexander, both of Great Britain, seventh and tenth respectively.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: *Montreal* 4 Milwaukee 8; Pittsburgh 2 St Louis 4; Arizona 7 Los Angeles 6 (16inns); San Francisco 3 Houston 7

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 6 Chicago White Sox 0; Toronto 5 Tampa Bay 8; New York Yankees 6 Baltimore 3; *Oakland* 3 Anaheim 2; Seattle 6 Texas 15

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 86 Washington 77; Miami 90 Chicago 74; New York 91 Philadelphia 72; Portland 113 Los Angeles Lakers 86; Dallas 92 San Antonio 86; Milwaukee 91 Atlanta 84; Los Angeles Clippers 109 New Jersey 101; Sacramento 100 Utah 105 (OT).

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: Men's All-England championships: Pairs: First round: S Numan and A Tidby (Dorchester) bt I Jenkins and B Bass (Cambridge Park) 22-12; R Hindley and K Cousins (Five Rivers) bt B Bell and J Thurlbeck (Stanley) 24-12; D Holmes and G Charlton (Folkestone) bt A Dawson and M Ferns (Towerlands) 32-5; S Popple and D Ward (Peterborough) bt P Horlsey and J Wells (Hartlepool) 25-22; J Andrews and J Goring (Essex County) bt S Bruford and N Williams (Taunton Deane) 25-21; L Esser and P McGuinness (Desborough, Maidenhead) bt L Jinks and A Irons (Leicester) 20-15; C Young and A Hatto (Wey Valley) bt A Smith and G Moon (Avon Valley) 23-18; S Martindale and A Cawdell (Herts Watford) bt A Spencer and P Reeve (Kingsthorpe) 21-10; M Ward and J Mills (South Forest) bt K Brown and T Bailey (Havant) 25-20; J Roope and M Elliott (Acle) bt P Harrison and I Daries (York) 18-17; K and R Guy (Wymondham Dell) bt J Dempsey and M Freebrey (Bentham) 25-11; S Remington and K Hutchens (North Wilts) bt S Stevens and I Bond (Exonia) 20-19; D Lockhart and D Holt (Blackpool Borough) bt P Barlow and S Farish (Cumbria) 22-16; S Reading and C Bryan (Barking) bt B Vickers and G A Smith (Cyphers) 23-14; R Hyde and M Hyde (Handy Cross) bt P Delonette and R Packham (Falaise) 25-14; J Knox and M Avent (Plymouth Mayflower) bt R Thompson and J McConnell (Lawson Park) 22-21

PRESTWICK: Women's world indoor singles championship: Section A: C McAlister (Scot) bt K Horman (Jer) 7-3, 4-7, 7-4; A Doggart (Ire) bt A Davies (Wales) 5-7, 7-6, 7-4; McAlister bt Davies 2-7, 7-2, 7-4; Horman bt *Doggart 7-2, 7-0.* **Section B:** M Castle (NZ) bt J Jones (Jer) 7-3, 7-1; M Letham (Scot) bt P Nolan (Ire) 7-3, 7-0; Castle bt Nolan 6-7, 7-6, 7-4; Letham bt J Jones 7-5, 7-2. **Section C:** S Smith (Can) bt L Harford (SA) 7-3, 7-5; A Simon (Guer) bt K Adams (Scot) 0-7, 7-5, 7-0. **Section D:** A Merrien (Guer) bt M Swerdelow (Isr) 3-7, 7-2, 7-4; L Smith (HK) bt M Jones (Wales) 7-2, 4-7, 7-2.

CYCLING

HUY, Belgium: Flèche Wallone race (200km): 1, M Bartoli (It) 4hr 52min 46sec; 2, M den Bakker (Neth) at 14sec; 3, M Aris (Bel) 3:06; 4, O Camenzind (Swtz) 3:13; 5, M Boogerd (Neth) 3:3[illegible]; 6, U Bolts (Ger) 3:40

TOUR OF ARAGON: First stage Jaca to Berbastro, 184.5km: 1, E Zabel (Ger) 5hr 21min 37sec; 2, M Wust (Ger); 3, M Cipollini (It); 4, G Magnusson (Swe); 5, J Hunt (GB); 6, B Boscardin (Swtz) all at same time

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 1 Bristol City 0; *Bury 2 Sunderland 5*; Grimsby 1 QPR 0; Port Vale 1 Bradford 1; West Brom 1 Swindon 1. **Second division:** Blackpool 0 Burnley 2; Bournemouth 0 Walsall 1; Fulham 3 Gillingham 0; Lincoln City 2 Reading 2; Macclesfield 1 Chesterfield 0; Northampton 2 York 2; Notts County 1 Wrexham 1; Oldham 2 Bristol Rovers 1; Wigan 2 Preston 2. **Third division:** Cambridge Utd 1 Rochdale 1; Brighton 1 Shrewsbury 0; Carlisle 0 Hull 0; Chester 1 Brentford 3; Exeter 3 Rotherham 0; Leyton Orient 4 Plymouth 3; Mansfield 0 Halifax 1; Scunthorpe 1 Peterborough 1; Southend 0 Cardiff 1; Swansea 1 Hartlepool 0; Torquay 1 Barnet 1

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Cheltenham 1 Kingstonian 0; Hayes 1 Hednesford 0; Rushden and Diamonds 1 Yeovil 2; Telford 1 Southport 0.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: *Colwyn Bay 2 Worksop 2; Leigh RMI 0 Bamber Bridge 1*; Marine 1 Runcorn 4; Spennymoor 1 Gainsborough 1; Whitby 4 Frickley 0; Winsford 2 Accrington Stanley 2. **First division:** Droylsden 2 Gretna 0; Eastwood Town 1 Farsley Celtic 1; Lincoln 1 Whitley Bay 0; Trafford 1 Witton 1. **League Cup: Semi-finals:** Blyth Spartans 0 Guiseley 2; Stalybridge Celtic 1 Hucknall 1

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Grantham 1 Hastings 2; Gresley 1 Rothwell 3; Halesowen 4 Ilkeston 1; King's Lynn 0 Atherstone 0. **Midland division:** Cinderford 6 Bloxwich 1; Clevedon 0 Hinckley 1; Weston-super-Mare 1 Solihull Borough 1. **Southern division:** Ashford 4 Brackley 1; Cirencester 1 Yate 1; Havant and Waterlooville 0 Chelmsford 0; Margate 1 Fleet 2; Newport IoW 2 Andover 0; Raunds 3 Corby 1; Tonbridge Angels 0 Witney 2.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Heybridge Swifts 2 Bromley 1; Slough 2 Aldershot Town 2; Sutton United 1 Gravesend and Northfleet 1; Walton and Hersham 2 Basingstoke 1; Carshalton 1 Hendon 3. **First division:** Chertsey 1 Canvey Island 1; Leyton Pennant 3 Maidenhead 1; Whyteleafe 1 Yeading 3. **Second division:** Banstead 1 Tooting and Mitcham 1; Edgware 2 Abingdon Town 1; Hertford 0 Wokingham 1; Horsham 1 Wivenhoe 3; Northwood 3 Hungerford 1; Thame 3 Harlow 0; Windsor and Eton 2 Leighton 1; Witham 2 Met Police 2. **Third division:** Camberley 1 Ford Utd 0; Corinthian Casuals 3 Tilbury 4; Hornchurch 3 Dorking 0.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Sixth round: Nottingham Forest 2 Newcastle 3

GILBERT LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Barry 3 Inter Cable-Tel 1

LEAGUE OF WALES: *Carmarthen Town 1* Afan Lido 1; Total Network Solutions 1 Conwy 4.

IRISH LEAGUE: Coca-Cola Cup: Semi-finals: Cliftonville 1 Linfield 2; Glentoran 1 Carrick 0

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Darlaston 1 Tividale 0; Dudley Town 4 Ettingshall 0; Kington 6 Gornal 0.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps 4 Shamrock 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham 1 Aston Villa 3; Liverpool 3 Leeds 3; Manchester Utd 0 Leicester 2. **First division:** Coventry 3 Sheffield Wed 0

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 4 AFC Wallingford 0; Ashford 2 Cobham 2; Reading 3 Cranleigh 1

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: North Ferriby 1 Brigg 2

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Maine Road 1 Glossop North End 2.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Bradford 0 Tranmere 0

GOLF

FATHER AND SONS FOURSOMES: West Hill: Second round: D H and A Greenhalgh (Royal Mid Surrey) bt J G and R Stevens (Royal Worlington) 2 holes; D and S Hiscocks (Banstead Downs) bt I H F and G Findlay (Addington/Royal Blackheath) 2 and 1; C C and J Harridge (Cowdray Park/Worplesdon) bt J C and P Murphy O'Connor (Denham) 3 and 2; R W and I Atloe (Worplesdon) wo JC and D Collins (Royal Mid Surrey); J and D Niven (Newbury) bt D R A and A Wheatland (Betchworth Park) 2 and 1; G N and M Batt-Rawden (Haywards Heath/West Hill) bt R J and C Coombes (Walton Heath) 1 hole; D E W and A Harvie (Walton Heath) bt J R and R Pound (Worplesdon) 2 and 1; M W A and A Coffey (Finton) bt H A and T Mote (West Sussex) at 19th; J and T Hubbard (Burhill) bt R A and L Wikner (Hadley Wood) 4 and 3; R W and M Esdon Dew (Walton Heath) bt N and P Chesworth (West Hill) 4 and 2; R E and K Boxall (Blackmoor) bt B and M Sharp (Seaford/Willows Run) 2 holes; D J and A Mills (West Hill) bt A H and R Evans (Dulwich/Royal Cinque Ports) 2 and 1; J J and J Tarbuck (Coombe Hill) bt P G and D Sechan (Woking) at 19th; R J and J Lavelle (Berkshire) bt P G and S Smith (Surbiton) 1 hole; P E and G Winkworth (Sunningdale) bt G E and A Tosdevin (Pinner Hill/Longniddry) 2 and 1; G A and R Gray (Royal Worlington) bt B E and M Joseph (Glamorganshire) 3 and 2; I H and C Dyce (Saffron Walden/Foxhills) bt A G and I Barker (Sandiway/Burhill) 2 and 1; B J and R Groce (Pinner Hill) bt R J and J Ruddell (Walton Heath) 5 and 4; W H B and A Kidd (Wentworth/Tracy Park) bt K R and G Ross (Royal Eastbourne/East Sussex) 3 and 2; S J and J Tedrake (Worplesdon) bt L C and S Goldstone (Dunham Forest) 19th; R W and J Krefting (Rye/Sunningdale) bt A S and J Cronk (Walton Heath) 3 and 2; A E and I Oakes (Hunstanton/Denham) bt R S and A Cox (Burnham Beeches) 6 and 5; P J R and A Bathurst (Hankley Common) bt B M and B Clarke (Hollye) 1 hole; P B F and S Brown (Royal North Devon) bt D I and D Stark (Royal North Devon/Saunton) at 19th; R L and G Smith (Crowborough) bt I N and D Thompson (Harewood Downs) 5 and 3; J and M Walton (Royal Wimbledon) bt S C G and C Murphy (Woking) 4 and 3; J T and J Green (RAC/Broome Manor) bt A and J Sparrow (Lytham Green Drive) 2 and 1; A S and J Lloyd (Royal St George's) bt G M H and P Walker (Woking) 4 and 3; P E and D Story (Mullion/Liphook) bt D R and M Baxter (Home Hall/Hirst Priory) at 21st; J and A Baldwin (Tandridge/East Berkshire) bt G and J Fletcher (Royal St George's) 4 and 3; R C W and N Stokes (Hayling/Romford) bt D C and J Dixon (Nevill/Royal Ashdown) 2 and 1; A T and J Francis (Bramley) bt P L and S Osborn (Lindrick/Royal Wimbledon) 2 holes

HOCKEY

ENGLAND SQUADS: For four nations tournament (in Dublin, May 7-9): A Bennett, K Brown (captain), S Chandler, F Greenham, J Smith (Slough), J Emson (Olton), S Blanks (Leicester), L Catchpole, L King (Ipswich), T Cullen, K Walsh (Hightown), D Marston-Smith, L Newcombe (Clifton), K Roberts (Chelmsford), J Sixsmith (Sutton Coldfield), H Rose (unattached). **For Australia tour** (May 25-June 15): A Bennett, K Brown (captain), S Chandler, F Greenham, M Nicholson, J Smith (Slough), K Bowden, P Miller (Leicester), T Cullen, C Reid (Hightown), J Empson (Canterbury), L Newcombe (Clifton), J Sixsmith (Sutton Coldfield), H Rose (unattached)

ICE HOCKEY

ODENSE, Denmark: World championship: Pool B: Great Britain 4 Poland 3.
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 2 *Montreal 2; Philadelphia 2 Buffalo 2*

REAL TENNIS

HOLYPORT: Women's British Open: First round (Great Britain unless stated): C Nicholls bt C Walker 6-1, 6-1; P Wilson bt S Owens 6-5, 2-6, 6-4; B Sabbag (US) bt C Armstrong-Smith 6-1, 6-1; J Watts bt P Leer 6-2, 6-1; *C Cockcroft bt J Lambert 6-0, 6-1*; C Cornwallis bt S Metherell 6-1, 6-0; *A Garside bt S Falkner 6-0, 6-0.*

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Wasps 15 Northampton 24.
JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division north: Nuneaton 36 Lichfield 42.

TENNIS

BARCELONA OPEN: Second round: A Berasategui (Sp) bt A Portas (Sp) 7-6, 2-6, 6-1; M Rios (Chile) bt A Pavel (Rom) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; A Costa (Sp) bt F Vicenté (Sp) 6-4, 6-1; F Meligeni (Br) bt J A Marin (Sp) 6-2, 6-2; F Squillari (Arg) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-2, 6-4; V Spadea (US) wo P Sampras (US); C Moyà (Sp) bt G Puentes (Sp) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; T Robredo (Sp) bt M Safin (Russ) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4; J C Ferrero (Sp) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6-2, 6-7, 6-3; F Clavet (Sp) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 6-3, 6-3; F Mantilla (Sp) bt A Martin (Sp) 6-3, 6-2.

TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: Second round: J Knippschild (Ger) bt M Chang (US) 6-3, 6-4; D Prinosil (Ger) bt C Mamiit (US) 6-2, 6-3; M Sell (US) bt G Motomura (Japan) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; W Ferreira (SA) bt D van Scheppingen (Neth) 7-6, 6-3; L Burgsmuller (Ger) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-2, 7-5; S Schalken (Neth) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-4, 6-2; K Carlsen (Den) bt W Arthurs (Aus) 6-4, 6-2; D Nestor (Can) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-2, 6-2; R Krajicek (Neth) bt J van Lottum (Neth) 3-1, ret; T Johansson (Swe) bt H Kaneko (Japan) 6-3, 6-; S Lareau (Can) bt B Black (Zim) 6-3, 7-5; N Kiefer (Ger) bt P Srichaphan (Thai) 6-2, 6-3; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt L Tieleman (It) 6-3 6-3; T Enqvist (Swe) bt R Stepanek (Cz) 7-6, 6-4; G Pozzi (It) bt P Goldstein (US) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; B Karbacher (Ger) bt D Dilucia (US) 7-6, 6-2. **Women: First round:** *M Washington (US) bt H Collin* (GB) 6-4, 6-3; S de Beer (SA) bt M Miyauchi (Japan) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; J Chi (US) bt Cho Yoon-Jeong (S Kor) 6-4, 6-1; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt W Prakusya (Indo) 6-1, 6-3; C Morariu (US) bt M Maruska (Austria) 6-3, 6-2. **Second round:** J Lee (Taiwan) bt J Watanabe (US) 7-6, 6-3; L Nemeckova (Cz) bt K Schlukebir (US) 7-5, 6-4; *Wang Shi-ting (Taiwan) bt Y* Yoshida (Japan) 6-1, 6-4; T Mellen (US) bt S Asagoe (Japan) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3; S Kleinova (Cz) bt K Po (US) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3; A Frazier (US) bt K-A Guse (Aus) 7-6, 6-0

POOLS DIVIDENDS

BRITTENS: Treble chance: 22pts £253.80, 21 £2.60, 20 £0.65. **Four draws:** £20.50. **Five aways:** £34.65. **Eight homes:** £18.80.

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 22pts £5,234.90, 21 £43.80, 20 £4.75, 19 £1.35. **Half-time results:** 20 £318.30. **Four draws:** £9.70. **Nine homes:** £78.35. **Five aways:** £3,308.00

VERNONS: Treble chance: 22pts £3,250.40, 21 £25.80, 20 £5.50.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 22pts £893.05, 21 £5.70, 20 £0.80. **Four aways:** £963.80. **Eight homes:** £14.10. **Four draws:** £8.40. **Easy abc** £20.70. **All-draws treble chance:** 24 £174.45, 23 £1.60. **Lucky numbers:** 7 11 23 1 17 32

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: *Guiseley v Emley.* **First division:** Hucknall Town v Harrogate Town. **President's Cup: Final:** Leigh RMI v *Droylsden.* **Challenge Cup: Semi-final replay:** Hucknall Town v Stalybridge Celtic

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Chesham. **Second division:** Bracknell v Thame Utd, Hemel Hempstead v Horsham, Hungerford v Hertford, Windsor and Eton v Tooting and Mitcham

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Cinderford v Newport AFC, Stourbridge v Solihull Borough, Sutton Coldfield *Town v Paget R.*

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace v Charlton, Northampton v Luton (7.0), Peterborough v Wycombe (7.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich v Manchester City (7.0). **Second division:** Rotherham v Scarborough (7.0)

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Shelbourne v Bohemians (7.45)

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Crockenhill v Ramsgate

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Taunton v Melksham, Yeovil TR v Tiverton

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey Town v New Bradwell St Peter, Brook House v Buckingham Athletic, Waltham Abbey v Royston, Welwyn Garden v Islington St Mary's

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington and New Milton v Brockenhurst.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Lowestoft v Halstead.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Wolverhampton C v Gornal A.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Kempston v Potton

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: W Mid Police v Halesowen H.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Denaby v N Ferriby

CRICKET

PPP Healthcare county championship

11.0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Worcestershire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Leicestershire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Sussex
LORD'S: Middlesex v Kent
THE OVAL: Surrey v Gloucestershire

University matches

11.30, first day of three

FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Somerset

11.30, second day of three

THE PARKS: Oxford University v Hampshire

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Caerphilly v Bridgend (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser play-off championship: Quarter-finals, second leg: Manchester Giants (74) v Birmingham Bullets (82) (8.0), London Towers (78) v Newcastle Eagles (78) (8.0).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

TARDE
(c) *Slow, cf. tardy. From the Latin tardus slow. Heywood, 1624:* "They neither speed,/ Nor doth their pace seeme tarde."

UPYIELD
(a) To yield or deliver up; to resign. 1502: "Our King Henry to Arthure hadde the seid londs remysed and upyielden."

TELEARCH
(c) The title of a magistrate in ancient Thebes. In Greek *archein* means to rule, and one of the meanings of *télos* is an office. 1797: "At Thebes the streets were under the inspection of the telearchs."

TROVER
(b) The act of finding and assuming possession of any personal property. Hence (in full, *action of trover*), an action at law to recover the value of personal property illegally converted by another to his own use.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 ... h3! 2 fxg3 (relatively best is 2 Qxd6+ Bxd6 3 fxg3, but 3 ... Rxg3 leaves Black with an overwhelming position) 2 ... hxg2+ 3 Kxg2 Bh3+ 4 Kh1 Bxf1+ 5 Qh2 Rxh2+ 6 Kxh2 Rh8+ and mates.



Lessons of Hillsborough still need to be learnt

Rob Hughes on the tenth anniversary of the tragedy in which 96 supporters died

On the first anniversary, 30,000 people gathered inside Anfield Stadium for a memorial service and Bill Shankly's widow, Nessie, lit the eternal flame to a monument for 95 Liverpool supporters killed at Hillsborough.

On the fifth anniversary, 96 red roses — another victim's life-support system had been switched off — were laid by family and friends. They stood on the Spion Kop, the huge terraced banking named after Liverpool's dead of the Boer War and as synonymous with the city as the Beatles. The Kop was dismantled soon afterwards to comply with the all-seater ruling of the Taylor Report.

And today, April 15, the tenth anniversary of Hillsborough, when the expectation and joy of an FA Cup semi-final turned into tragedy, perhaps 10,000 Liverpudlians, and some from Nottingham who shared the horror, will be drawn back to Anfield. The clocks will be set at 3.06pm and Ray Lewis, the referee at Hillsborough, will signal the silent tribute.

Wherever we were that spring day, it is bound to touch us. In one sense it seems like yesterday, the avalanche of emotions, the image of men on the upper balcony reaching down like human cranes to haul out of the morass anyone who had the strength to hold on. There were youths tearing down advertising boards to act as stretchers, men and women trying to revive, or to comfort the dying.

Those caged in included a medical doctor, several nurses, a professor of economic science, the son of a policeman. Some had swapped seats to stand and to sing shoulder to shoulder, and died doing it. The sores have not healed. The antiquated stadiums have, perforce, been replaced, at a cost of £600 million, by fine and safe arenas. But the families cry out for justice, the Government resists another judicial review, and from the police to the survivors to the Hillsborough Families Support Group, there seems eternal infighting to lay blame and to make claim for further compensation.

But there were heroes. I shall not forget Ian Clarke, then 16, and presumably one of those derided in the kneejerk aftermath by the late Nicholas Ridley, the then Environment Secretary, as "this blemish" on our civilisation. "I started pulling people out from the pile of bodies," the schoolboy recalled. "I learnt life-saving at my swimming club, so I gave mouth-to-mouth to ten or 12 of them. They were really purple, but I think about eight came back to life.

"I went back for more, but there was another surge and I was knocked to the ground. It was like being underwater when you can't get back up and you've got no air. I was trying to fight, but there were bodies on top of me." Clarke regained consciousness on the pitch after a policeman had dragged him clear.

> 'At Wembley, 15 times a year, there is danger'

We need, after that, no photograph to revive Hillsborough. Yet this week, eerily redolent, some front pages brought us visions of masses behind steel fencing, groping for a hold, anguished. It was not Hillsborough, but Kosovo; it has taken war and atrocities to equal Hillsborough.

In Britain today there are no football fences. I never understood why, of all the recriminations, few settled on administrators who had ordered the steel caging, engineers who erected it, or security officers who passed it. The tragedy of human panic occurred through the sheer confinement of too many people behind an immoveable fence in which there was one narrow gate. This, when the deadly surge came, became almost a catalyst, a suction pump, to people trying to flee.

Alas, Manchester United are now preparing for Europe, and for a stadium in Turin, the home of Juventus, that has fences, and that threatens to be overcrowded. As at Hillsborough, people intend to go to a football match without tickets and to a stadium that is booked to capacity. They hope, evidently, for black-market tickets. Lord Justice Taylor proposed that ticket touting, in this country, be made a criminal offence, but it remains rife on the Continent.

Whatever the exhortations of David Mellor, ready again, no doubt, to blame Italy's policing should anything go wrong, it seems that we have learnt too little if people venture out without their security or their place assured. But one can still be unnerved in England. Last August, when Reading opened their new Madejski Stadium, without first building adequate roads and with a solitary, narrow concrete staircase at the forecourt, only tolerance and good humour spared a re-enactment of the crush that caused Hillsborough.

At Wembley, 15 times a year, there is danger, with people milling around unfamiliar concourses, mounting old-fashioned steep steps, not quite sure where they are heading. The 1990 World Cup in Italy, in the wake of Hillsborough, offered the inexpensive expedient, the potentially life-saving logic of colour-coding each ticket, with matching colours to each entrance; so that at least visitors knew where they were going.

"Whatever decisions we have to take," Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister in 1989, said, standing on the Hillsborough terraces mangled with torn and broken steel, "will be taken. We cannot go through this again."

Are we so sure? Each of football's tragedies, from Heysel to Bradford to Hillsborough, came because there was no escape. On April 15, in 1912, the *Titanic* went down and people perished because adequate escape had not been planned.

We cannot turn back the clock. It remains, for those who remember Hillsborough, at 3.06pm.

Carpet kid who is not scared to jump for joy

David Rhys Jones meets a young unknown about to face his big test

A VIRTUALLY unknown but precocious teenager from Norfolk will face Tony Allcock, the world outdoor champion, tonight in the first round of the national indoor bowls singles championship at Melton Mowbray.

The emergence of Stephen Collingham, who is 18, and his brother, Jamie, 17, has excited followers at Melton Mowbray, partly because almost no one had heard of them before they qualified for the national finals this winter.

The brothers, who were taught at home by their mother, Sylvia Dhonau, were given a choice of sports for their "physical education", and chose to concentrate on bowls.

"Stephen was bullied while at primary school, and we took him out of state education," Mrs Dhonau explained. "It was a challenge for me, as well as for them, but I'm proud to say they both got eight GCSE passes."

Bowls was new to the family, but Stephen got hooked while watching Mark McMahon winning the International Open on television in 1994, and his mother discovered that there was an indoor bowls stadium not far from Nottingham, where they then lived.

"I enrolled Stephen into membership of the Rushcliffe club, partly as a therapeutic exercise, because he was undergoing a nervous breakdown, and was reluctant to meet people," Mrs Dhonau said. "He is now an extremely self-assured and confident young man."

Indeed. Occasionally, men in blazers say, he can be a bit too confident. The Collinghams' reputation for exuberant behaviour preceded them from their Norfolk home to Melton Mowbray after Stephen performed some gymnastics to celebrate his 21-17 area final win over his famous Pinewood Park clubmate, Mervyn King, the world No 6.



Stephen Collingham: therapeutic exercise

"I certainly like to enjoy myself on the rink," he said. "In that area final, I led 17-9, but Mervyn came back to level at 17-17, and I was so delighted to get the next four shots that perhaps I went a bit too far in doing a backward roll."

Stephen has confounded his critics by qualifying, from one of the strongest bowling areas in the country, for the national championships in three of the four disciplines. With Tim Bullimore, 19, and Duncan Toyn, 26, the Collinghams performed brilliantly in their opening fours match, but lost, 25-17, in the second round. Then, in the triples, they were overwhelmed, 25-5. To the relief of the traditionalists, there were no gymnastics.

"Perhaps their etiquette leaves a bit to be desired," Mike Willis, the English Indoor Bowls Association president, said. "But it was good to see their enthusiasm, and they have clearly got potential."

Champion in fighting mood

CAROLINE McALLISTER, from Lochwinnoch, may have wished for a more upbeat start to her defence of the women's world indoor singles title at Prestwick, but at least her two victories yesterday virtually assured her of a place in the knockout stage.

She was certainly worried in her opening match, when she trailed Karina Horman, 2-4, in the deciding set, but in the manner of a true champion, she scored a full house to lead 6-4, and took the winning single on the next end for a 7-3, 4-7, 7-4 victory.

A poor start in her second group match saw her lose the first set, 2-7, to Aeres Davies, the Welsh champion, but another full house at the start of the second set turned the game her way, and she returned a tidy 2-7, 7-2, 7-4 card.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A quiz for good sports

They Think It's All Over
BBC1, 10pm (Scotland, 10.20pm)

The new series features a new round, "Temper Temper", in which the teams must guess what brought on the tantrum featured in a film clip of a sportsman, which seems like a hostage to fortune for a quiz in which the chairman, Nick Hancock, has often seemed to court anger, if not actual assault by his colleagues, because of his provocative and indeed insulting remarks. Gary Lineker, in the last series, daubed him with mud in a gesture that looked both unrehearsed and heartfelt. It was also wildly applauded. Hancock aside, the show continues to feature Gary Lineker, David Gower, Rory McGrath and, in this series, regulars Jo Brand and Jonathan Ross.

The regular teams and chairman are back in *They Think It's All Over* (BBC1, 10pm)

ER
Sky One, 9.30pm

It is typical of this show that the headline-making decision of Dr Ross (George Clooney) to leave it is almost a side issue in this second part of an incident-packed two-parter. He has burnt his boats by administering drugs without authorisation, assisted by his fiancée Nurse Hathaway (Julianna Margulies), who bears the brunt of official displeasure even after he offers to resign. She seems unwilling to follow him to Seattle, or Portland, but this may be partly because of her having been on duty for 24 hours, assisting with the treatment of schoolchildren whose bus has collided with a snowplough. The fact that Ross has skidded in the snow, injuring Jeanie, who turns out to have Hepatitis-C, merely adds to the complications. A commendably varied episode.

NYPD Blue
Channel 4, 10pm

At least George Clooney doesn't leave *ER* under a sheet, unlike Jimmy Smits as Detective Simone in this show, whose protracted agony as the good guy with a dodgy heart comes to an end in a welter of rather gooey visions. Essentially, his companion into the afterworld is the pigeon keeper, who utters gnomic observations on the nature of life and death and whether Simone should keep fighting. He also offers a vision of his unborn child. Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) meanwhile, when not heading the crowd of distraught colleagues whose worry about Simone is seriously affecting their work, has to deal with the discovery that his former wife is an alcoholic, just like him, and facing a drink-driving charge. **Tony Patrick**

Men Behaving Badly
BBC1, 9.35pm (except Scotland)

With the recent criticisms about the content of the Christmas specials still echoing around the corridors of the BBC, here is a chance to go back to the beginning. Well sort of. This is the second series of six, with Neil Morrissey's Tony replacing Dermot (Harry Enfield) as the flatmate of the boorish Gary (Martin Clunes). The on-screen pairing of Clunes and Morrissey was an immediate hit and *MBB* went on to become one of the most popular sitcoms of the 1990s, even spawning a US-set remake. The other halves, so to speak, Caroline Quentin and Leslie Ash, continue to provide the antidote to Gary and Tony's laddish behaviour. **Ian Hughes**

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: The Property of Colette Nervi
Radio 4, 2.15pm

In print, William Trevor's tale of a stolen handbag and its catalytic impact on two unlikely lovers is a miniature masterpiece. Not a word too many, whether descriptive or conversational. Listening to this radio version, I kept telling myself that whoever it was who had adapted it had a lot to answer for because as much had been added to it as subtracted from it. I could have saved myself a lot of resentment because it transpired that the adapter was none other than Trevor himself. Nevertheless, I'm not sure that he has improved on the original, though most of the wistfulness and the moral dilemmas are still in place and, after initial misgivings, I thought the employment of the mother (Trudy Kelly) as narrator served a useful purpose.

The Khalsa
Radio 4, 8pm

Sadly but true, it often takes bloodshed and persecution before a world preoccupied with its own affairs can refocus its attention on a race or faith about which it knows next to nothing. Kosovo is a case in point. And so, in 1984, was the Indian Army attack on the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple of Amritsar. BBC World Service's two-part documentary about the Sikhs — part one goes out tonight — concentrates on the Khalsa, the community forming the core of the Sikh faith, whose tercentenary is being celebrated this year. The reporter is Indarjit Singh. From now on, there can be no excuse for confessing that all we know about the Sikhs is that they wear turbans and never have a haircut. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **3.00pm** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. The best music **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** The Global Update. New series **10.10** John Peel **12.00** Andy Kershaw **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Bob Harris Country **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** Take it Easy: California Cool (4/6) **9.30** The News Huddlines **10.00** The Alan Price Set (6/6) **10.30** Lynn Parsons **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ian Payne. Including racing from Newmarket's Craven meeting with live commentary on the 2.35 and 3.10 races **4.00** Drive with Jane Garvey and Peter Allen **7.00** News Extra with Annie Webster **7.30** Wembley, the Church of Football (2/4) **8.00** Inside Edge **9.00** Hoops **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Justice With Jacobs **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** One to One with Andy Gray **8.00** Jackie Mason **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **6.00** The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Assignment **9.00** World News **9.05** From Our Own Correspondent **9.20** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.35** The Works **10.00** World News **10.05** Network **10.20** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Assignment **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** The Works **3.30** Meridian Books **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** Westway **4.30** The Greenfield Collection **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newdesk **6.30** Record News **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Assignment **8.00** World News **8.05** The Works **8.30** Coffee - A Hellish Brew **8.45** Off the Shelf News Of A Kidnapping **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Books **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Blues World **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** The Works **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Westway **2.45** Performance **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. A selection of rousing music to start the day **8.00** Henry Kelly The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents favourite music **2.00pm** Concerto. Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Suppe (Viennese Jubilee Overture); Schubert (Symphony No 4 in C minor); Rossini (Messa di Milano); Chausson (Poeme for Violin and Orchestra) **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto. Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny reports on the Berlin concert by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Beethoven (Piano Sonata in G, Op 31 No 1); Haydn (Te deum in C, H XXIIIc 2); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in G, BWV550); Warlock (Capriol Suite)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Moura Lympany
11.00 Sound Stories: Architects Peggy Reynolds remembers Charles Garnier, who designed the Palais Garnier in France
12.00 Composer of the Week: J.C. Bach
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Jeremy Huw Williams, baritone, Iain Burnside, piano. Schumann (Dichterliebe); Hoddinott (Five Poems of Gustavo Adolfo Bacquer); Debussy (Trois ballades de Villon) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic
4.00 The Piano Weekly series in which Piers Lane investigates the world of the piano past and present (r)
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty introduces music including Chopin (Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38), played by Murray Perahia
7.25 Performance on 3: Mephistopheles Live from the London Coliseum, the operatic version of the Faust legend by Arrigo Boito. Ian Judge's vivid new production for English National Opera is introduced by James Naughtie and sung in a new English translation by Carlos Wagner. With Alastair Miles, bass, David Rendall, tenor, English National Opera Chorus and Orchestra under Olivier von Dohnanyi. Prologue: Acts 1 and 2 **9.00** The Devil with the Best Tunes. Tom Rosenthal considers the numerous musical offspring of the Faust legend inspired by both Goethe and Marlowe **9.20** Mephistopheles, Acts 3 and 4; Epilogue
10.30 Postscript: Seamus Heaney at 60 (4/5)
10.40 Haydn (Piano Trio in E flat, H XV 30). Performed by the Beaux Arts Trio
11.00 Night Waves Paul Allen reassesses the life and legacy of Kurt Schwitters, whose work included architecture, sculpture, literature and painting
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton concludes his visit to the Chichester Festival Theatre's Jazz Parade concert with a set from the Great British Jazz Band
12.00 Through the Night Includes **12.05am** Schumann (Overture "Manfred") **12.15** Bruhns (Jauchzet dem Herren alle Welt) **12.30** Mozart (String Quartet in D, K575) **1.00** Danish NRSO under Michael Schonwandt. Nielsen and Haydn **2.25** Geminiani (Concerto grosso No 12, Folia) **2.40** Nicolai (Overture: The Merry Wives of Windsor) **2.50** Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20) **3.25** Mendelssohn (Viola Sonata) **3.50** Schumann (Gesange der Fruhe) **4.05** Avison (String Quartet No 1) **4.50** Telemann (Sonata in F) **5.00** Purcell (Ode on St Cecilia's Day, excerpts) **5.15** Mendelssohn (Organ Sonata in A, Op 65 No 3) **5.25** Pylkkanen (Summer Scenes) **5.40** Holmboe (Song at Sunset) **5.50** Shostakovich (Festival Overture)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News **5.35 Shipping Forecast**
5.40 Inshore Forecast **5.45 Prayer for the Day**
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Anna Hill
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round-up of developments
9.00 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Guests join Melvyn Bragg to consider ideas and events which have influenced the present age
9.30 Automatic for the People Alan Dein talks to people who once left their mark on vinyl by using auto-recording booths (4/4)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Choice Chatwin Susannah Clapp reads extracts from *Utz*, by Bruce Chatwin
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour The actress Eleanor Bron tells Jenni Murray about her performance in a trilogy of plays opening in London this week
11.00 Crossing Continents Rosie Goldsmith visits the Indian state of Gujarat to meet shipbrokers on the beach at Alang
11.30 My Uncle Freddie by Alex Ferguson. Comedy set in Tyneside charting the relationship between a boy and his uncle. Lecky and his uncle meet two Spanish guerrillas. With Shaun Prendergast and Gareth Brown (5/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by John Waite and Liz Barclay
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Open Country Richard Uridge presents rural reports
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Property of Colette Nervi William Trevor's tale. See Choice
3.00 Call You and Yours: 0870 010 0444 Consumer justice programme, presented by Peter White
3.28 Radio 4 Appeal The Duke of Kent speaks on behalf of Endeavour Training (r)
3.30 A Name to Remember Barbara Myers looks at Charles Bell's work on nerve function (4/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 74 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 Nice Work Alison Mitchell investigates the changing world of work
4.30 The Material World Trevor Phillips and guests discuss recent breakthroughs in the development of vaccines against deadly diseases
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 That Reminds Me Peter Jones reminisces about his career in comedy (4/6)
7.00 The Archers The latest from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row Francine Stock discusses the science fiction novels of Doris Lessing
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delafield's household journal. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The Khalsa Part one. See Choice (1/2)
8.30 The Week in Westminster
9.00 Leading Edge Geoff Watts reports on the latest research into the origins of life
9.30 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel Alan Howard reads part nine of Robert Harris's thriller
11.00 Late Night on 4: Do Go On A satirical discussion of media absurdity, focusing on manners (3/6)
11.30 (FM) Experimental Feature: Your Place or Mine? Dawn Collinson investigates Country music in Branson, Missouri (3/5) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys Part nine of Philippa Gregory's novel
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

Quality TV? They must be barking mad





Peter Barnard

If you want to stay fit and widen your circle of acquaintances you cannot beat keeping a dog. Oft I can be observed walking off a heavy meal by pushing a vacuum cleaner up and down the living room carpet to collect the dog's hairs, which replicate themselves tenfold upon the dog for every thousand that are dumped on the carpet.

And I am now on familiar terms with people in relatively distant parts of the town, who ring me up having read the telephone number that dangles from the neck of the great beast who is stretched out on their patio, sleeping off the exertion that attends eating the contents of their compost heap.

These huge advantages of dog ownership, together with the requirement — plainly absent *in my case — for fences on a par with* a maximum security prison, needed to be kept firmly in mind while watching **Battersea Dogs Home** (BBC1), a new series that started last night. Otherwise one could come away with the impression that all a dog does is throw itself at wire mesh while barking insanely. Heaven forfend.

There is a terrific series to be made about dogs. What a shame this isn't it. Nor was *Animal Hospital*, in which Rolf Harris *simpered over assorted ailing* creatures. Battersea is more social than medical, though the series opened with Mama, a pregnant bull terrier cross, which duly delivered seven puppies.

Actually, I have been trying to forget what the series really opened with, but I can repress it no longer. It opened with the "theme music", which consisted of assorted dogs barking out the tune of *Perfect Day*. Hilarious? Not even slightly. Gross? Now you're getting warm. Then came Mama, who was something of a fair-weather mama. She rolled on one puppy, suffocating it, another died and the remaining five were taken "for fear that their sickly condition might make the mother turn on them".

Presumably *Battersea Dogs Home* was in the can before the BBC decided to "dumb up" and ignore the ratings, for the *only posssible point of this show is* to get people to sit down in front of it because it contains dogs. You might as well sit down in my living room: that contains a dog. A sleeping dog, more often than not, so that the experience is about as informative as the programme, but a darn sight quieter.

The series someone ought to be making is the one about why we have so many dogs and how our relationship with them has changed over the years. Did you know that dogs have become more dominant because the advent of central heating has encouraged them to colonise every corner of the house? Well there you are.

Just about the only thing we discovered last night was that Lionel Blair and his wife (there appears to be a celebrity slot each week, God help us) used to have a dog that got run over but they now have two other dogs called Jenny and Florence that get on ever so well and love to go a-gamboling in the Blairs' garden. Absolutely riveting, pass the Dyson.

The television companies have taken ages to come up with another excuse for putting Diana, Princess of Wales on the screen but last night ITV ran a one-off documentary, **The Unseen Royals**, a title that would be reported to the Office of Fair Trading if it was an advert. Apart from a couple of private snapshots, there was nothing unseen about these royals.

Ordinary people who had met the royals were the focus of the programme, giving their impressions of the monarch and the rest of them. Nothing very original there, but some of the observations served a genuine need, for they gave a balance to the perceived notion that whereas Diana was a saint who walked the Earth, the Prince of Wales is some sort of unfeeling git who lives in a palace on the planet Zog.

There was a powerful contribution from David Akinsanya, a former bad boy turned journalist, pop impressario and tireless worker for the Prince's Trust, who usefully built a word bridge across the chasm between perception and reality: "Once you get to know (Prince Charles) he's ... an OK sort of bloke. In fact I think the sun shines out of his ass. Given his position in life, he does not need to give a monkey's about what's going on. You can whisk through every town in your Roller or Daimler and not give a monkey's, but he does."

Diana got more attention from the programme than anyone else: I wonder why that can be? The footage included a classic illustration of what it is that she had and why that made her special. Two little girls, Hayley and Holly, had been in a hospital Diana visited and Hayley was *deputed to give the Princess a* bunch of flowers. Hayley was asked about her impressions of meeting Diana. She used 17 words where others have needed a thousand: "She looked right into my face and her eyes were sparkly ... she made me feel really special." Yes, that is exactly what she did do and that is exactly what *so many members of the Royal* Family signally fail to do.

Consider for example another experience from David Akinsanya's encounters with the royals. He recalled the time that he took a rap band he was managing to meet the Duke of Edinburgh. Akinsanya is black, as was the band. "So what part of the world are you from?" the Duke asked. Philip got the answer he deserved, which was the truth: "Hackney".

The establishing of a multiethnic Britain was always going to be a bottom-up, rather than a top-down, process. Just as well, it *would seem.*

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (68399)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (62888)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9969134)
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (930863)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (8994478)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5820738)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9030467)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (6140270)
12.00 Going for a Song (4433757)
12.25pm Wipeout (5988842)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (76898399)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (12365)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58968844)
1.40 Neighbours Sarah and Karl are found in a compromising position (T) (16119641)
2.05 Ironside Mark's friend is under threat, so he goes undercover to pursue an evil *loan shark (r) (1014399)*
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2073554)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8410738) **3.45** Chucklewood Critters (2407776) **4.10** Alvin and the Chipmunks (1244660) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5707950) **4.35** Goosebumps (7408283) **5.00** Newsround (5430080) **5.10** Miami 7 (2208979)
5.33 Rewind (T) (409115)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (804370)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (318)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (370)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigations (T) (9405)
7.30 EastEnders Tony and Simon could be in trouble (T) (554)
8.00 Harbour Lights Jane and Philip plan a massive party to celebrate their engagement (T) (104080)
8.50 Points of View Viewers' opinions of the week's programmes (T) (385383)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (545134)
9.35 CHOICE **Men Behaving Badly** Gary looks for a new flatmate, and *along comes Tony (r) (T) (811202)*
10.00 CHOICE **They Think It's All Over** New series. Light-hearted sports quiz (T) (76196)



Frank Skinner presents a new series of his comedy show (10.30pm)

10.30 The Frank Skinner Show In the first of a new series of topical comedy, the Black Country comedian offers his unique insights into modern living (T) (85844)
11.00 Question Time From Cardiff (T) (17592)
12.00 Bophal (1993) Apartheid drama. South African policeman Danny Glover faces a conflict of loyalties when his son incites violence in their township. Directed by Morgan Freeman (T) (721055)
1.55am Weather (2155790)
2.00 BBC News 24 (2992852)

WALES

9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast (806405)
1.55am-2.00 News; Weather (T) (2155790)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (62806) **7.30** The Bots Master (8919009) **7.55** Blue Peter (8267202) **8.20** Dastardly and Muttley (8972573) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts *(3455592)* ***8.50*** *Wishing (3451776)* ***9.00*** The Munsters (7966028) **9.25** The Phil Silvers Show (7978863) **9.50** Just So Stories (7407318) **10.00** Teletubbies (68738) **10.30** FILM: The Great Caruso (49175757) **12.15pm** Beautiful Things (7047689) **12.25** Turning Point *(9264689)* ***12.30*** *Working Lunch (43793)* **1.00** Wishing (38193221)
1.10 The Leisure Hour (r) (1702825)
2.10 Sporting Greats (89874573)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8285825)
2.45 Westminster (T) (5031757)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (5771863)
3.30 Call My Bluff (776)
4.00 The Village (r) (7090318)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (7093405)
4.55 Esther (T) (9285115)
5.30 Whose House? (937)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Sci-fi advneture (r) (T) (740950)
6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer Buffy is worried by the arrival of two new vampires in Sunnydale (T) (128009)
7.30 Making It The young product designers Darren Mullen and Matthew Plested are hired to design a new e-mail system and revamp BT's phones (T) (196)
8.00 Ray Mears' World of Survival Global expeditions with the survival expert Ray Mears (r) (T) (3467)
8.30 Top Gear James May test-drives the new Lexus IS200 (T) (5202)



More cross-cultural comedy with the Coopers, or is that Kapurs? (9pm)

9.00 Goodness Gracious Me *Popular Asian* sketch show (r) (T) (4318)
9.30 Talking Heads Dame Thora Hird stars in an Alan Bennett monologue (r) (28047)
10.00 Morecambe and Wise Vintage sketches (r) (T) (619347)
10.33 Video Nation Shorts (T) (188554)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (512467)
11.20 Late Review Cultural highlights (764028)
11.55 Holiday Weather (853776)
12.00 Despatch Box (64697)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: The Care Industry **1.00** Whose Body? **1.30** Talking About Care **2.00** GCSE Bitesize Revision — History **4.00** Teaching Film and Media: The Holocaust on Film **4.30** Film Education. The Distributor's Tale **5.00** Teacher Training: Planet Europe **5.15** Planet Europe: Socrates, Learning in Europe **5.45** Open University: A New Sun is Born — Part 2: The Revolution **6.10** One Fact, Many Facets **6.35** *Our Health in Our Hands*

WALES

7.30pm-8.00 House Detectives (r) (T) (196)
10.30 Party Election Broadcast (188554)

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (81919)
6.00 GMTV (2802844)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3555115)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49162283)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7025467)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2649221)
12.55 Shortland Street Billy takes the easy option (1715399)
1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16115825)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5073283)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2079738)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5770134)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5779405)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5776318) **3.25** The Adventures of Dawdle (5759641) **3.35** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (5514399) **3.50** Lavender Castle (5528592) **4.05** Hey Arnold! (7086115) **4.30** Children's Ward (221)
5.00 Catchphrase (r) (T) (1009)
5.30 WEST: The Pleasure Guide Regional entertainment magazine (T) (573)
5.30 WALES: Crazy Creatures Schoolchildren learn about goats (T) (573)
5.58 HTV Weather *(413318)*
6.00 HTV News (T) (486)
6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast By the Welsh Liberal Democrats (501514)
6.29 HTV Crimestoppers (501514)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (738)
7.00 Emmerdale Mandy asks Terry and Viv for advice (T) (4573)
7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out with Judy Finnigan (950)
7.30 WALES: The Insiders New series. A look at life inside Portland Young Offender Institution (950)
8.00 The Bill *Lennox and Rawton visit* Salisbury to bring in a conman (T) (9592)



Amita Dhirir, Dinita Gohil and Sacha ***Dawan star as survivors (9pm)***

9.00 The Last Train The ravenous survivors seek refuge in a derelict house, where they are able to drink fresh water for the first time since the impact (3/6) (T) (6028)
10.00 WEST: Tonight with Trevor McDonald *Interviews and current affairs (T) (9115)*
10.00 WALES: The Ferret Consumer reports, with Chris Segar (94592)
10.30 WALES: The Sharp End The National assembly's impact (70912)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (540370)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (459689)
11.30 WEST: A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy The Bath pub and club scene (T) (84776)
11.30 WALES: Tonight with Trevor McDonald (T) (51134)
12.00 Public Morals *(r)* (57351)
12.30am The Jerry Springer Show (9108852)
1.15 Trainspotters *(5/13)* (282210)
2.15 Pop Down the Pub Pop quiz (12806)
2.45 Box Office America Top 10 (4049806)
3.10 Cybernet Computer news (84404806)
3.40 Murder, She Wrote (2735055)
4.30 Coach (r) (83796871)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (3316264)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (9243196)
12.55 Lie Detector (2624912)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4805028)
2.10-2.40 Echo Point (89878399)
3.15-3.20 Central News (5779405)
5.30 Shortland Street (573)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (486)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (459689)
11.30-12.35 Wonderful You (216641)
1.20am Jenny (2793185)
1.45 Pop Down the Pub (24697)
2.15-3.05 T in the Park (2176264)
3.30 The Making of Very Bad Things (99535)
4.00 Central Jobfinder '99 (7987852)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9490210)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm Westcountry News** (T) (7025467) **12.27-12.30** ***Illuminations*** *(9251115)* ***12.55-1.25*** **Westcountry Lunchtime Live;** Weather (T) (2624912) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4805028) **2.10-2.40 Lie Detector** (T) (89878399) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (5779405) **4.59-5.00 Birthday People** (8441860) **5.30 Dig It with Den** (573) ***6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live;*** *Weather (T)* (486) **11.20-11.30 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (459689) **11.30-12.30 Wonderful You** (6/7) (r) (T) (51134)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: ***12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;*** Weather (7025467) **5.30 Grass Roots** (T) (573) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (486) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (169405) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (459689) **11.30-12.30 Fitz** (T) (51134) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (22852)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9256660) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7025467) **5.25-6.00 About Anglia** (4446842) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) *(486)* ***11.19 Anglia Air Watch*** *(864680)* ***11.20*** **Anglia News and Weather** (T) (459689) **11.30 Crime Night** (956202) **11.45-12.00 The Ticket** (r) (951757)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** *(r) (28938115)* **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69805979) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (T) (92101370) **9.05 Saved by the Bell** (T) (92965486) **9.30 Sam and Max** (93258221) **10.00 CatDog** (54653738) **10.20 Boy Meets World** (T) (54662486) **10.45 Moesha** (50874991) **11.15 The Bigger Breakfast** (25273738) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90500573) **12.00 Bewitched** (r) (T) (63339641) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (93237009) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (69875738) **1.30 Doors to Manual** (6/6) (T) (99141009) **1.55 Racing from Newmarket and Cheltenham** (15263467) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99277399) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99266283) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41648196) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99280863) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (497142 83) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39502028) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41651660) **7.30 Electoral Broadcast** (56789863) **7.35 Newyddion** (T) (31138979) **8.05 Slaymaker** (T) (84584134) **8.35 Teulu'r Mans** (r) (T) (52790399) **9.05 She's Gotta Have It** (1/10) (T) (57285641) **9.35 Friends** (T) (84706047) **10.05 Dispatches** (T) (51011399) **10.40 Father Ted** (T) (81096202) **11.10 The 11 O'Clock Show** (85641405) **11.40 King of the Hill** (T) (67231134) **12.10am First on Four** (r) (T) (15250429) **12.40 Prey** (T) (86753413) **1.40 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.25am Alfie Atkins (9533979)
5.35 The Pink Panther Show (2749950)
5.55 Sesame Street (5908283)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (97738)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3119950)
9.05 Saved by the Bell (T) (7950467)
9.30 Sam and Max (22863)
10.00 CatDog (T) (3892844)
10.20 Boy Meets World (T) (3801592)
10.45 Moesha (T) (914825)
11.15 The Bigger Breakfast (6358592)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (5509)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (91405)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (33979)
1.00 Caroline in the City (90825)
1.30 Little Gems (13949592)
1.35 The Three Stooges (r) (95174912)
1.55 Racing from Newmarket and Cheltenham From Newmarket. The **2.05** Swaffham Handicap Stakes, **2.35** Feilden Stakes, **3.10** City Index Craven Stakes, and the **3.45** Bentonline Stakes. From Cheltenham: the **2.20** Concord Classifile Handicap Hurdle, the **2.55** *Cheltenham Mares Only Handicap* Hurdle, and the **3.30** Doncaster Bloodstock Sales/EBF Mares Only Standard Open Flat Race Final (69466592)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (979)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7425950)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9270283)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (115)
6.00 Friends Isabella Rossellini makes Ross's day by dropping into Central Perk for a cup of coffee (r) (T) (888)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (680)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (353739)
7.55 The A-Z of Scotland *(T) (943689)*
8.00 Designs on Your Car (2/3) (r) (T) (7134)



Harry Enfield made his debut as ***Loadsamoney on Channel 4 (9pm)***

9.00 First on Four The many faces of the comedian Harry Enfield (r) (T) (9486)
9.30 Dispatches An investigation into the effects of domestic violence on children (T) (13115)
10.00 CHOICE **NYPD Blue** Simone has a heart transplant, but is left hovering on the brink of death with a chest infection and a fever (T) (7757)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (4931)
11.30 Ally McBeal Cage prepares for his long-awaited date with Ally (r) (T) (59776)
12.30am 4 Later Introduction; Prey (6591719)
1.25 Vids Offbeat video review (3669535)
2.00 Late Toon Animation (5622158)
2.05 NYPD Blue Gina is wounded in an *attempted rape (r) (T) (2087326)*
2.55 St Elsewhere Luther loses his sense of hearing in an explosion (r) (4202852)
3.45 Bulldog Drummond (1929) Ronald *Colman plays the former British Army* hero. Adventure, with Joan Bennett. Directed by F. Richard Jones (590245)
5.15 Lube (3907603)
5.35 How We Used to Live (2716622)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5763405)
7.00 WideWorld Maggie Philbin looks at the nature of invention (r) (T) (2613221)
7.30 Milkshake! (2418979)
7.35 Muppet Babies (4832592)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8612825)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (8611196)
9.00 Fame and Fortune (r) (T) (8635776)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6632573)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (4025047)
11.10 Leeza (r) (3780912)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8615912)
12.30pm Family Affairs The boys inspect their haul (r) (T); 5 News Update (9330711)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila goes to court (T) (2612592)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (3197392)
2.00 McMillan and Wife: Terror Times Two (TVM 1972) Light-hearted mystery starring Rock Hudson and Susan Saint James as a crimebusting couple who find themselves caught up in a string of puzzling cases. Directed by Leonard Stern (76714757)
3.20 A Man Called Gannon (1969) A young runaway learns about the realities of life from a tough-talking cowboy as they travel along the American Frontier. Western, with Tony Franciosa. Directed by James Goldstone (10315738)
5.20 5 News Update (59024573)
5.30 100 Per Cent *(6910776)*
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (6917689)
6.30 Family Affairs Gabby puts Pete on the spot (T); 5 News Update (6991641)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael and KITT help truckers who have been hijacked and had their cargoes stolen (r); 5 News Update (2927825)
7.30 Aussie Birds New series. Antipodean birds, tonight focusing on the predatory currawong, a member of the Australian butcher-bird family *(1/7)* (T); 5 News Update (6997825)
8.00 The Pepsi Chart Suede perform their new single *Electricity*, New Radicals sing *You Get What You Give* and Martin McCutcheon gives yet another rendition of *Perfect Moment* (2936573)
8.30 Viva España Expats Lee and Jacqui learn Spanish and their staff bravely agree to do the "Full Monty" in the bar. Marion and Derek go through more trauma as their faithful dog dies, and the cameras revisit the dance teacher Karen to find she has made good progress since leaving England (3/8) (2915080)
9.00 Her Desperate Choice (TVM 1996) An *underground group* help a desperate woman to flee the authorities and a private detective in an attempt to protect her daughter. Drama, with Kyle Secor, Faith Ford, Hanna Hall and Nigel Bennett. Directed by Michael Scott (T); News Update (49060047)
10.50 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment Comedy quiz (7367028)
11.20 Red Shoe Diaries A maid stumbles upon her boss's steamy video (1040196)
11.55 Ice Hockey NHL Richard Orford and Todd Macklin present coverage of *Boston v Pittsburgh (62259919)*
4.30am Live and Dangerous (5822090)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6634055)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (57134) **7.30** Grimmy (36641) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (11680) **8.30** Godzilla (46979) **9.00** Pokemon (20931) **9.30** Simpsons (64863) **10.00** Shadow Raiders (19486) **10.30** Xena (31283) **11.30** Legend of the Hidden City (72318) **12.00** Tarzan (54486) **1.00pm** Mad About You (56406) **1.30** Jeopardy (67950) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (10115) **3.00** Jenny Jones (76134) **4.00** Pokemon (4221) **4.30** Shadow Raiders (3955) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (4738) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (1370) **6.30** Dream Team (5950) **7.00** Simpsons (5467) **7.30** Simpsons (1134) **8.00** Friends (4115) **8.30** Friends (6950) **9.00** Friends (51625) **9.30** ER (29844) **10.30** Veronica's Closet (27844) **11.00** Dream Team (56370) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (28405) **12.30am** Law and Order (16784) **1.30** Long Play (4490413)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Sphere (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Mousehunt (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Hard Rain (1998)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am A Change of Heart (1997) (40486) **7.30 Bogus (1996)** (38080) **9.30 Mission: Impossible (1996)** (77318) **11.30 A Change of Heart (1997)** (28432) **1.30pm Empire of the Sun (1987)** (461641) **4.00 Bogus (1996)** (4252) **6.00 Mission: Impossible (1996)** (96844) **8.30 Keep the Aspidistra Flying (1997)** (6911979) **10.10 Ransom (1996)** (556270) **12.10am Foxfire (1996)** (607577) **1.55 Last of the High Kings (1996)** (110142) **3.40 To Love, Honour and Deceive (1996)** (57205852)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.40am Amore! (1993) (4168134) **7.10 No More Baths! (1997)** (80979486) **9.00 Ivanhoe (1982)** (457234) **11.30 Heart Full of Rain (1997)** (28554) **1.00pm Rescuers: Stories of Courage — Two Women (1997)** (25047) **3.00 Ivanhoe (1982)** (482134) **5.30 Heart Full of Rain (1997)** (41115) **7.00 Rescuers: Stories of Courage — Two Women (1997)** (39738) **9.00 In Defence of Murder (1997)** (57478) **11.00 Showdown (1993)** (851399) **12.40am Evil Has a Face (1996)** (215719) **2.15 Moonlight and Valentino (1995)** (631055) **4.00 Home Invasion (1997)** (50087)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm A Chump at Oxford (1940) (7225573) **6.00 Tarzan and the Mermaids (1948)** (6304234) **8.00 Harper (1966)** (7859329) **10.00 The Drowning Pool (1975)** (7537486) **11.50** 100 Years. 100 Movies. In Search Of (6588979) **12.40am No Highway in the Sky (1951)** (4343413) ***2.20 The Magus (1968)*** *(5392210)* ***4.20*** **Valley of Eagles (1951)** (6078603)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Bread and Alley (1970) (5591776) **6.10 Where Is My Friend's House? (1988)** (65372009) **8.00 Gunerazy (1992)** (33609047) **9.40 Vegas Shift** (6235283) **10.00 The Wild Search (1989)** (8413047) **11.45 The Taking of Pelham 123 (1974)** (8987554) **1.25am Eat Drink Man Woman (1994)** (64701790) **3.30 Kes (1970)** (4336239) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Some Came Running (1958) *(39550738)* **11.30 Zigzag (1970)** (48088689) **1.30am Children of the Damned (1964)** (44344413) **3.00 Night Digger (1971)** (84599177) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Scottish Football **11.30** Unbelievable Sports **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30pm** Rugby League World **2.00** Scottish Football **3.30** Australian Rally Championship **4.00** World Pool League **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Superstars **6.00** Sports Centre Special **7.00** Football League Review **7.30** Pavilion End **8.00** Live Basketball **10.00** Sports Centre Special **11.00** You're On Sky Sports! **11.45** Formula Three **12.15am** Sports Centre **12.30** You're On Sky Sports! **1.15** Football League Review **1.45** Futbol Mundial **2.15** Spanish Football **3.45** Basketball **5.45** Sports Centre **5.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** *Racing News* ***8.15*** *Unbelievable Sports* **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** World Pool **11.00** Watersports World **12.00** FA Cup Football **1.30pm** World Pool **2.30** Watersports World **3.30** FA Cup Football **5.00** Live US Golf **7.00** Live US Golf **9.00** Live US Golf **11.00** Sports Auction Preview **11.30** Futbol Mundial **12.00** Trans World Sport **1.00am** Formula Palmer Audi **1.30** Formula Three **2.00** The Rugby Club **3.00** Pavilion End **3.30** Formula Palmer Audi **4.00** Sports Centre **4.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Wrestling **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** FA Cup Final Classics **3.30** Unbelievable Sports **4.00** Inside the PGA Tour **4.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour **5.00** Football League Review **5.30** What A Weekend **6.00** Formula Three **6.30** Formula Palmer Audi **7.00** Sports Auction Preview **7.30** The Rugby Club **8.30** Spanish Football **10.00** Football Scrapbook **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Golf **8.30** Football **10.00** Start Your Engines **11.00** Motorcycling **11.30** Motocross **12.00** Tennis **1.30pm** Live Tennis **4.00** Live Football **6.00** Racing Line **7.00** Live Football **9.00** Weightlifting **11.00** Racing Line **12.00** Civil Diving **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** The Young Ones **9.45** Bottom **10.25** Stark **11.35** The Bill **12.35am** Between the Lines **1.30** Dad's Army **2.05** The Man from Auntie **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **5.30** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The *Sweeney* **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Men and Motors



A strange alien entity is discovered at the bottom of the Pacific ***Ocean in Barry Levinson's sci-fi thriller Sphere (Sky Box Office 2)***

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Sale and Sound **8.30** An Inspector Calls **9.00** St *Elsewhere* **10.00** A Difficult Woman **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Talespin **7.00** 101 Dalmatians **7.25** Classic Toons **7.30** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Timon and Pumbaa **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Hercules: The TV Show **9.30** Hercules: The TV Show **10.00** Boy Meets World **10.30** Boy Meets World **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Smart Guy **12.00** Disney on Demand **12.30pm** Disney on Demand **1.00** Disney on Demand **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Toy Story (1995)** **8.20** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.05** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Dennis and Gnasher **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four ***9.40*** *X-Men* **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** EekIStravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli. The New Adventures of the Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four ***3.10*** *X-Men* ***3.30*** *X-Press* **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men/Ivor the Engine **2.30** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Secret Life of Alex Mack **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Best of the Best (1989)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Supervixens (1975)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** The Six Million Dollar *Man* ***11.00*** *Dark Shadows* ***11.30*** *The Ray* Bradbury Theatre **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Space Precinct **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Ghostbusters II (1989)** **12.00** Twin Peaks **1.00am FILM: Scanner Cop II: Volkin's Revenge (1995)** **2.45** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Garden Calendar **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grassroots **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House **3.30** Two's Country

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Connections **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Medical Detectives **8.30** Medical Detectives **9.00** Shadow of the Assassin **10.00** Forensic Detectives **11.00** The FBI Files **12.00** Forensic Detectives **1.00am** Flightline **1.30** Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** Lions — Finding Freedom **2.00** Lions — Finding Freedom **3.00** Saving the Tiger **4.00** Born to be Free **5.00** Wildlife Rescue **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Gaston and the Truffle Hunters **7.30** Crowned Eagle: King of the Forest **8.00** Colony Z **8.30** Killer Whales of the *Fjord* ***9.00*** *Extreme Earth. Storm Chasers* **10.00** On the Edge: Aconcagua — Two Weeks on a Big Hill **11.00** On the Edge: Paying for the Piper **12.00** Shipwrecks: Lifeboat — Shaken Not Stirred **12.30am** Shipwrecks: Lifeboat — In Safe Hands

HISTORY

2.00pm Memories of 1975 **3.00** Joseph P. Kennedy **4.00** Secrets of War: Vietnam — Hidden in Plain Sight **5.00** Bombers **6.00** Curse on the Gypsies **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** Joseph Stalin **7.55** Photos for the Future

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** Chef for a Day **10.30** *So You Think You Can Cook* ***11.00*** *Worrall* Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cook **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Food Factory **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** The Green Gourmet **2.00** Retrospective **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Simply Fish **3.45** More Simply Antony **4.30** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Bababoos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** *Jerry Springer* ***10.50*** *Maury Povich* **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.10** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 ***7.35*** *Animal Rescue* ***8.00*** *LA Law* ***9.00*** **FILM: Sins of the Mother (TVM 1991)** **11.00** Sextasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Hasya Te Na Ghar Vasya **5.30** Hi Thi Hit Hai **6.00** Hero Kal Aaj Aur Kal **6.30** Awaz Nayee Andaz Wohi **7.00** Faith **7.30** *News* ***8.00*** *Karoban Duniya* ***8.30*** *Tara* **9.00** Zanjeeren **9.30** Zee Health Show **10.00** Urdu Drama **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM: Tamil Movie Mannan Maagal** **3.00pm** Bangla TV *Nokhatter Rat* **3.30** Public Demand **4.00** Filmi Chakkar **4.30** Fairdeal Antakshari **5.30** Teacher **6.00** Pop Time **6.30** Hip Hip Hurrah ***7.00*** *Gudgudee* ***7.30*** *Cinemagic* **8.00** News **8.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **9.00** Hasratein **9.30** Blunt 2 **10.30** A-Zone **11.30** Aaap **12.00** News **12.30am** Zee Business Show **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parwarian **2.00 FILM: Hindi Movie** **4.30** An Hour With

CRICKET 46-47
Reports from all of the county championship matches

SPORT

ROB HUGHES 50
Memories of Hillsborough ten years on



THURSDAY APRIL 15 1999

Butt seen as catalyst for success as Sunderland dream begins to unfold

Reid strategy provides rays of light

By George Caulkin

BY the time the second glass of champagne kicked in, the discussion had turned to new signings and more seats, from bidding for Nicky Butt, of Manchester United and England, to increasing capacity at the Stadium of Light. Promotion, as well as drink, had clearly gone to the head, but when the fog of celebration had lifted partially, Sunderland's hangover had given way to a steely resolve.

Tired and emotional Gigg Lane may have been on Tuesday night, as Sunderland confirmed their elevation to the FA Carling Premiership, but these were not the grandiose claims of drunkenness. Since the late 1950s, when the one-time "Bank of England club" gradually teetered into sapping disrepute, the ambition of their supporters has seldom been repaid. Now, it seems, the tide has turned.

Little remains of the decaying giant that Peter Reid first led to promotion four seasons ago, a pied piper serenading a lumbering dinosaur. Roker Park exists in memories and photo albums, attendances

Confident Keegan..............48
Todd takes stock.................48

have almost trebled and an ageing, defensive side have been flushed with youth and adventure. The year before the arrival of Reid, Bob Murray, the chairman, sickened by the bickering and inertia, had decided to relinquish his hold of the club. There were no takers. Now a plc, Sunderland's latest interim figures reported turnover up by 23 per cent.

They will need it, of course. There was a reluctance to compete in the transfer market last time around — inquiries for the likes of Paul Scholes, Paul Gascoigne and Andy Cole either rebuffed or outpriced — and the tears were shed on the final day of the season when a 1-0 defeat by Wimbledon pushed them back to the purdah of the Nationwide League first division.

Again, there will be no unnecessary flourishes now, in spite of the money generated by those 42,000 souls who flock regularly through the turnstiles, a few hundred yards above the labyrinth of shafts and tunnels that previously formed the Wearmouth Colliery. It matters little that Sunderland are the third-best supported club in the land, that plans to lift attendances by another 12,000 may be brought forward. Players will be cherry-picked rather than harvested, the team modified not deconstructed.

"I won't dismantle this side," Reid said yesterday. "I need to strengthen by adding to the squad and I will, because I never want to experience relegation again. I honestly believe that it was a better achievement when we came up two or three years ago, but that's a compliment because I always expected this lot to do it. In my heart of hearts, I know they'll be good enough. Some of these lads can definitely play in the Premiership. You can see for sure the players I mean. I've got to get people in who are better than those I have and that will be difficult. I'm looking at three or four, but I won't take the team apart. They're good enough and young enough to get better."

If all that evokes a lack of drive, the impression is erroneous. Already, there are firm suggestions that Reid, once more, is aiming high, but that lessons have been learnt. Every tranche of his team needs strengthening — from a proven centre half, to cover for Thomas Sorensen, his impressive Denmark goalkeeper.

Midfield, though, is where the battle is won or lost. He has quality in Lee Clark and authority in Kevin Ball, but neither are proven at the highest level. Carsten Fredgaard, a £1.8 million recruit from FC Lyngby, arrives in July and a £2 million offer for Curtis Woodhouse, of Sheffield United, was tabled last month, but it is here that Butt — aged 24 and terrier-like — enters the equation.

Such is the prowess of Roy Keane, Ryan Giggs and David Beckham that Butt must share the first-team roster with Scholes and though, theoretically, he would cost upwards of £4 million, Alex Ferguson is unlikely to sanction his departure. A long-term contract ties him to Old Trafford.

The same old story, some will argue, but Reid said: "I know what I have to do." Simultaneously, he can point to his reserve side, marshalled by Adrian Heath, his former Everton team-mate, who are likely to top the Pontin's League premier division this season — ahead, ironically, of United. Youngsters like Jody Craddock, Darren Williams and Darren Holloway are of a calibre that "every Premiership manager would want in their squad", Reid said.

With promotion guaranteed, the intention was always to increase capacity incrementally to 64,000 should England host the 2006 World Cup, but already it is feasible that the first two phases may be melded together.

Fifty-four thousand is the likely target and John Fickling, the chief executive, said: "There's a brilliant untapped market here. We will have to gauge how the season-ticket sales go, but we do have the option of extending the capacity again. We have it as a possibility if the demand is there."

The champagne, the dreams, the words were still flowing late into last night.

MICHAEL STEELE



Upwardly mobile: delighted Sunderland players fly the flag after the emphatic victory over Bury on Tuesday night that sealed their return to the FA Carling Premiership

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT


Reid savours his team's moment of triumph at Gigg Lane

Owen out of action for three months

By Stephen Wood

MICHAEL OWEN, the Liverpool and England striker, is not expected to return to action for three months because of injury. It took his club longer than expected to announce the news and, given the extent of his problem, their reticence is not surprising.

Owen first suffered a hamstring strain in the FA Carling Premiership match against Derby County last month and, on Monday night, he experienced a recurrence in Liverpool's game with Leeds United at Elland Road. He limped off in the first half, but Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, had hoped that the injury would prove straightforward. However, Owen underwent a scan on the hamstring two days ago and the results revealed that he has also damaged tendons in his right leg.

Owen said: "It is disappointing news, but I have every faith in the medical staff at Liverpool and hopefully I will return as soon as possible, feeling fully fit."

If Owen's absence is the last thing that Liverpool needed, it could also affect the fortunes of the England national team. The 19-year-old striker will be unavailable for the friendly against Hungary later this month and, moreover, the two European championship qualifying matches against Sweden and Bulgaria in June.

Kevin Keegan, the temporary England coach, could also be without the services of Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers striker, for the games England must win to enhance their chances of qualifying for the European championships of 2000.

For Owen, the next three months could become a blessing in disguise. As a result of his inclusion in England's under-20 squad for the world youth championships in Malaysia in 1997, and in the senior squad for the World Cup last summer, he has been forced to play without a proper break for three years.

Indeed, Houllier was already hinting at giving the teenager a rest in the next few weeks, whether or not the injury proved serious. "We do not want the problem to become a chronic injury, or to put Michael's long-term development at risk," he said. Now they have no choice and the enforced hiatus in his career could allay fears of Owen suffering from burn-out.

Sudden death of Postlethwaite at 55 shocks Formula One

Kevin Eason on the loss of one of motor racing's defining figures

HARVEY Postlethwaite has died just as he was embarking on a new challenge that promised to enhance his mark on Formula One.

The heart attack that claimed his life came as he did what he knew and loved: patrolling the pitlane and checking the performance of his latest car, which was already threatening to make an impact on the sport a year before its appearance on the grid.

Postlethwaite, 55, left the Tyrrell team, which was bought out by British American Racing last year, but had found a new role running the team developing a car for Honda's return to grand prix racing. He was testing at Barcelona when he died.

Mike Gascoyne, who spent seven years being nurtured by Postlethwaite at Tyrrell before leaving to become technical director of Jordan last year, described him as a "defining figure". He said: "His infectious enthusiasm for motor sport and everything about Formula One was an inspiration for those of us who worked with him. His great talent was to use ingenuity to overcome the lack of funds enjoyed by engineering departments in the biggest teams."

Postlethwaite, armed with a PhD in mechanical engineering, entered Formula One with the fledgeling March team. But it was with the extrovert Hesketh team that he made his name and that of James Hunt, later to become world champion with McLaren. The team was short-lived, but Postlethwaite produced cars that allowed Hunt to display his talents.

Postlethwaite moved on to work for the Austrian oil magnate, Walter Wolf, and achieved what had been thought of as impossible, the Wolf team winning on its debut, at the Dutch Grand Prix in 1977 with Jody Scheckter.

That victory cemented Postlethwaite's reputation and it was not long before Enzo Ferrari was calling at the Englishman's home in Reading. The alliance was successful for a time, with Postlethwaite producing cars good enough to win the constructors' championship twice in 1982 and 1983.

His return to Britain in 1988 was to a team in as stark a contrast to Ferrari as could be. Where Ferrari were the biggest spenders, Tyrrell was the family team, headed by Ken Tyrrell, with a budget best described as shoestring.

Apart from a brief sojourn with the Sauber Mercedes GT team, Postlethwaite saw out the last years of his career with Tyrrell, always producing surprises and paving the way for other teams. In 1990, he produced the raised-nose Tyrrell, setting a trend still followed now, and even last year, teams such as Ferrari and Jordan copied Postlethwaite's X-wings, raised structures to aid aerodynamic efficiency, before they were banned.

When Ken Tyrrell decided to sell out to BAR, it seemed Postlethwaite might fade from the scene, to spend more time with his family after 27 years of trailing around the world's motor-racing circuits. But Honda called and he was getting ready for his next great challenge. More is the pity that he cannot see it through.

Postlethwaite, left, discusses team strategy with Ken Tyrrell at the Nürburgring in 1996

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1692

ACROSS
1 Come to understand: six feet (6)
5 German POW camp (6)
8 West African fetish (4)
9 Mrs Patrick —, English actress (8)
10 Outstanding instrumentalist (8)
12 State betting system (4)
13 Soft felt hat (6)
15 Scots cloth (6)
17 John —, Angry Young Man; old cart (4)
19 Of the home (8)
21 Sudden emotional display (8)
23 A floor-covering *(abbr.)* (4)
24 Church reading: school period (6)
25 Change channels (6)

DOWN
2 Rude, insulting (7)
3 Place of frequent resort (5)
4 First Labour PM (9)
5 Total (3)
6 A judge (7)
7 Assign (shares) (5)
11 (Poetry) line with eight feet (9)
14 Multi-episode edition (7)
16 S France city, Papal home once (7)
18 Sharp (5)
20 Broken: a break (5)
22 Consecutive sequence: hurry (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1691
ACROSS: 1 Crusade 5 Acre 8 Smithy 9 Urgent 10 Black dog 12 Bawl 13 Embrasure 17 Boor 18 Sukiyaki 20 Sprung 21 Berate 23 Held 24 Lengthy
DOWN: 2 Rumble 3 Set 4 Dryad 5 Argy-bargy 6 Renown 7 Fungus 11 Come round 14 Resign 15 Couple 16 Sketch 19 Keble 22 Rig

